Bengaluru Wednesday, October 8, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 278 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Nobel Prize Physics

John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis won the Nobel Prize in physics for research on the of sub-atomic quantum tunnelling that advances the power of everyday digital communications and computing. What the three physicists did "is taking the scale of something that we can't see, touch, and feel and bringing it up to the scale of something recognisable"

John Clarke (UK) University of California, Berkeley

Michel H. Devoret (France) Yale University and University of California

John M. Martinis (US) University of California

P.12

Business

World Bank raises India's growth projection to 6.5%

P.13

World

Modi to meet UK PM Starmer in Mumbai today

P.12

Sports

Anand, Kasparov face off after 30 years P.14

Business

Power struggle in Tata Trusts P.13

SC seeks details of 3.66L excluded Bihar voters

EC tells court that most names that were added are of new voters

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission to provide details of 3.66 lakh excluded voters from the final electoral roll prepared after Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise initiated in June this year.

The EC told the court that most of the names added are of new voters and that no complaint or appeal has been filed till now by any excluded voter.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll panel to submit whatever information it gets on excluded voters by Thursday, October 9, when the court will conduct further hearing on the pleas challenging the SIR exercise.

The court said everyone has the draft electoral roll and the final list has also been published on Sept 30, so the required data can be furnished through a comparative analysis.

The top court also told senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, that court orders have resulted in more transparency and access to the electoral process.

The bench said that since it appears from the number of electors in the final list there is an appreciation of numbers from the draft rolls, to avoid any confusion, the identity of add-ons should be disclosed.

"You'd agree with us that the degree of transparency and access has improved in the electoral process. It appears from the data that there was a 65 lakh deletion in the draft list which you published, and we said whoever is dead or moved is alright, but if you are deleting someone, please follow Rule 21 and the SOP," the bench said.

Continuing, the court said: "Now the final list appears to be an appreciation of numbers and there is confusion in the general democratic process — what is the identity of the add-ons, are they of deleted names or new names?"

Dwivedi replied that most additions of names are of new voters and there were a few old voters, whose names were added after the draft roll was published. "No complaint or appeal filed till now by any excluded voters," Dwivedi said.

He asserted that there was no complaint from the ground but only some individuals in Delhi who wanted to carry out data analysis. On September 30, the EC, while publishing the final electoral list, said the total number of electors has come down by nearly 47 lakh to 7.42 crore from 7.89 crore before the SIR.

▸ Bihar, Page 3D

What the SC said

- Required data can be furnished through a comparative analysis

- Appears from number of electors in final list there is an appreciation of numbers from the draft rolls, so identity of add-ons should be disclosed
- Confusion on identity of add-ons, are they of deleted names or new names?
- Orders have resulted in more transparency and access to the electoral process

'Can't have roving inquiry'

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it cannot have a roving inquiry in connection with the Bihar's special intensive revision (SIR) exercise. The court felt, at least for illustrative purpose, affidavits of those persons who are aggrieved should be brought on record.

Details on Page 7

Bhima basin farmers devastated by rain, floods

Ruined crops, financial loss take severe mental toll

DH SPECIAL

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

The recent floods and heavy rain have taken a severe toll on the mental health of farmers in the Bhima river basin. Grappling with depression, anxiety and uncertainty about the future, many farmers in Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Bidar have been driven to despair.

In Kalaburagi district alone, more than 3.5 lakh farmers have been affected, according to the government's preliminary survey. With over 80% of them tenant farmers who have lost crops on leased land, they are struggling to pay land owners the annual rent. What has made the situation desperate is that though they have invested lakhs of rupees on cultivation, they are not entitled to government compensation as the land is not in their name.

Tenant farmers are small land holders who take land on lease annually for cultivation. The region faced severe floods in 2019, 2009 and 2004 too.

Mareppa Barma, a 42-year old farmer from Basavapattana village in Kalaburagi taluk, died by suicide last week after being dejected over crop loss due to heavy rain and flood. He had taken a bank loan of Rs 2.5 lakh to grow tur and cotton on two acres of his own land and on 10 acres of leased land.

Dire situation

- Over 3.5 lakh farmers have been affected in Kalaburagi district alone
- More than 80% of them are tenant farmers who have lost crops on leased land
- Farmers are now struggling to pay land owners the annual rent
- Many landless farmers in 88 flood-hit villages of Kalaburagi district have migrated to cities

"My brother was paying an annual rent of Rs 25,000 per acre. He had borrowed money to pay the land owner, but he lost the entire crop. The landowner will not pay us the government compensation for crop loss," Mareppa's brother Kushal Talawar said.

Shantappa Talawar of Bedakapalli village in Chincholi taluk ended his life after he lost tur and green gram crops on two acres of his land and 50 acres of dry land taken on lease at Rs 20,000 an acre.

"There is stiff competition among tenant farmers, resulting in an increase of annual rent, up to Rs 30,000 an acre. Flash floods have dashed our hopes of a good yield, forcing us to migrate to cities. We have to start from scratch," said farmer R B Patil of Kona Hipparagi village in Jevargi taluk.

Many landless farmers in 88 flood-hit villages of Kalaburagi district have migrated to cities in search of livelihood.

▸ Farmers, Page 3D

Ugrappa takes on CM on Kuruba ST quota plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress leader V S Ugrappa on Tuesday warned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about the proposed inclusion of the Kuruba community to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST), saying: "You can dine with us but don't snatch food from our plates."

"Let Kurubas come, Gollas come, Besthas come. While coming, get your plates and rice. You can sit with us and eat. But if you put your hands on our plates, I will stand with the people and fight as their voice. I am ready for that, this is my warning."

Ugrappa's tirade came during the Valmiki Jayanti – 2025 programme.

Details on Page 6

15 killed as landslide hits bus in Himachal

SHIMLA, PTI: At least 15 passengers were killed when a private bus was struck by a massive landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district on Tuesday evening, officials said.

The accident took place in Bhalughat area in Jhandutta Assembly segment around 6.30 pm, they said, adding the bus carrying 25-30 passengers was on its way from Marotan to Ghumarwin.

Several people are believed to be trapped under the debris while three have been rescued, the officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to the next of kin of each deceased while the injured would be given Rs 50,000.

Intermittent rains have been lashing the area since Monday.

So far 15 people including the driver and the conductor of the bus have died while three rescued alive were sent to hospital, BJP MLA from Jhandutta J R Katwal, who was on the spot, told PTI over the phone.

Police and district administration officials are at the spot and rescue operations are going on in full swing, said Bilaspur superintendent of police Sandeep Dhawal, maintaining that 15 bodies have been recovered from the rubble.

The whole mountain came crashing down on the bus, said an eyewitness engaged in the rescue operations. CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed grief over the accident.

6 of family drown in Kunigal dam

KUNIGAL (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: Six people of a family were washed away in the backwaters of Markonahalli reservoir on Kunigal taluk of Tumakuru district on Tuesday. The bodies of Sadia (28) and Harbin (20) have been traced. Search is on for Sadia's mother Tabassum (46), her daughter Nipra (4), aunt Shabana (44) and Mohib (1).

Details on Page 5

Koppal: 4 killed in accident, Page 5

Future wars will be fought with algorithms: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With the army embracing AI, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asked innovators to concentrate on cutting-edge technologies as tomorrow's wars will be fought with "algorithms and autonomous systems".

"Battlefield has changed. Wars of tomorrow will be fought with algorithms, autonomous systems and AI. Drones, anti-drone systems, quantum computing and directed-energy weapons will define the future. We have seen such a demonstration during Operation Sindoor," Rajnath said at an event in New Delhi.

Details on Page 10

Haryana IGP who flagged caste, rights issues found dead

CHANDIGARH, PTI

Senior Haryana police officer Y Puran Kumar allegedly shot himself dead at his Chandigarh home on Tuesday, officials said.

Puran Kumar

The 52-year-old 2001 batch officer, known for his interventions in matters related to the rights of officers and seniority and other issues, had recently been posted as inspector general, Police Training Centre (PTC), in Sunaria, Rohtak.

His body was found in a room at the basement of the house with a gunshot wound, police said.

Policemen at the house of Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar in Chandigarh on Tuesday. PTI

His wife Amneet P Kumar, an IAS officer and commissioner and secretary of the Department of Foreign Cooperation, Haryana government, is in Japan as part of a delegation led by Chief Minister Nayab Saini. She is expected to reach here on Wednesday.

Physical and electronic evidence, including the weapon, were seized by the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) team, they said.

According to the Chandigarh police, a "Will" and "Final Note" were also recovered from the scene.

The police rushed to the Kumars' home in upscale Sector 11 after receiving information about the incident around 1.30 pm.

"The SHO, Sector 11, and his team inspected the scene. A reported suicide had taken place... The body was identified as that of Y Puran Kumar, IPS officer," Chandigarh senior superintendent of police Kanwardeep Kaur told reporters.

▸ Haryana, Page 3D

STARK DIVIDE

Caste census in B'luru: A tale of two responses

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's ambitious socio-educational survey, designed to gather comprehensive data across Karnataka, is receiving a contrasting reception on the ground in Bengaluru.

While enumerators have been met with overwhelming cooperation and hope in the city's slum areas, resistance and fear of data misuse are proving significant hurdles in middle- and upper-class neighbourhoods.

For example, in Swantantrapalya and Srirampuram, residents welcomed enumerators with open arms.

An enumerator fills in the details during the socio-educational survey in Swantantrapalya, Srirampuram, on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN B M

This *DH* reporter, accompanying an enumerator, witnessed first-hand the enthusiasm on the ground. Locals readily participated in the detailed 60-question survey, optimistic that it could lead to more targeted welfare.

"I hope that the survey would be helpful for the government to help us more," said Srirampuram resident Roopa S, who eagerly answered the questions posed by the surveyor.

She said she had already enlisted for the skill training option, believing it will "empower us and make us independent".

▸ Census, Page 3D

> Why do they need details like the type of property we own and sites we have or vehicles we own. What does that have to do with social welfare? I think it's a government tactic to squeeze more taxes out of us
>
> **Jayaraj R**
> resident of Malleswaram

> I hope that the survey would be helpful for the government to help us more
>
> **Roopa S**
> resident of Srirampuram

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Passengers board a train at the Majestic metro station on Monday.
DH PHOTO/SHRADDHA AK

Monday rush pushes metro ridership to 10.09 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Namma Metro trains ferried more than a million passengers on Monday, as a large number of people returned to the city after a five-day festival break.

Total boardings across the metro network stood at 10,09,970. Ridership was 4,32,824 on the Purple Line, 2,82,099 on the Green Line, 60,811 on the Yellow Line, and 2,34,236 at interchange stations (Majestic and RV Road).

For comparison, metro trains had ferried 9.74 lakh passengers on September 29 and 10.01 lakh on September 22.

Metro stations along the city's entry points—Tumakuru Road, Mysuru Road, Hosur Road, Kanakapura Road and Old Madras Road—witnessed heavy rush, with passenger lines spilling onto the streets. BMRCL authorities had to temporarily shut entrances at some metro stations to prevent the situation from getting out of hand.

One metro staff member said they did not expect so many people.

Ridership has steadily increased since the Yellow Line opened on August 11.

In August, average daily ridership stood at 8,46,325 as a record 2,62,36,084 passengers travelled by the metro during the month.

According to a senior BMRCL official, boardings hover around one million on weekdays. Monday's ridership was "more or less" in line, he added.

The all-time ridership of 10,82,394 was recorded on August 14.

Return-to-office triggers surge in single-occupancy vehicles

Traffic worsens as commuters ditch public transport

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

With a majority of the companies along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) resuming full-time office work, there has been a noticeable surge in single-occupancy vehicles on that stretch.

A visit by *DH* to the stretch on Monday revealed worsening traffic congestion, especially between KR Puram and Silk Board, with commuters choosing private vehicles over public transport.

Company efforts to promote public transport use have failed historically, industry insiders said.

With ample parking available inside tech parks, a majority of employees returning to office have opted to commute by private vehicles, they added.

"First- and last-mile connectivity have remained a long-standing problem. To encourage more people to adopt BMTC buses, the idea of allowing the buses into the campus has also been floated. But with the roads inside the campus being smaller, it is not feasible to let the regular BMTC buses inside the campus," Manas Das, president of the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), said, adding that campaigns promoting public transport failed for the same reasons.

A drive by a *DH* staff from MG Road to Iblur on Monday morning took 90 minutes, instead of the expected hour.

After the long festival weekend, corporate employees returned to offices. While there was congestion along the route, there was no major spike in traffic, confirmed Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

Poor public transport has pushed many to buy private vehicles over the years.

The upcoming Namma Metro Blue Line, connecting Silk Board and the Kempegowda International Airport, is unlikely to ease traffic, ORR employees said.

"The metro trains are overcrowded. The infrastructure is not able to keep up with the city's growing crowd. Also, instead of interchanging two metro stations and travelling an hour to get to work, we would much rather use our own vehicles to avoid the chaos," said Ganesh Shanbhag, a software engineer.

Carpooling is also gaining popularity.

A tech park near Bellandur, Outer Ring Road. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Have faith in Namma Metro: City top cop

Despite public hesitation, the Namma Metro Blue Line will "most definitely reduce the congestion along the ORR", Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

The Yellow Line's success proves what is ahead, he said. "The Yellow Line has been received very well, and it has helped reduce congestion in the area by 20% to 30%. Once the Blue Line opens up, it will also have a similar impact, if not better," he added.

He urged tech parks to operate feeder buses for the upcoming metro line, which can also connect bus stops.

Traffic police plan ORR overhaul to untangle Hebbal-Silk Board chaos

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has identified major chokepoints between Hebbal and Silk Board and recommended rectification measures to ease congestion along the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Rectifying these spots could reduce traffic congestion along the ORR by nearly 20%, said Seemant Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City.

A majority of the traffic snarls at these locations stem from poorly designed entry and exit points between the main carriageway and service roads.

"When vehicles exit the main road into the service lane, motorists tend to come from the right and block the road. At some points, entry and exit occur at the same spot, leading to crisscrossing and pile-ups on both the main and service roads. These are the points where congestion begins," said Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

To streamline movement, the BTP has proposed separating entry and exit points at all identified locations by 100 to 150 metres.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will undertake the rectification work, which may take one to two months, Reddy said.

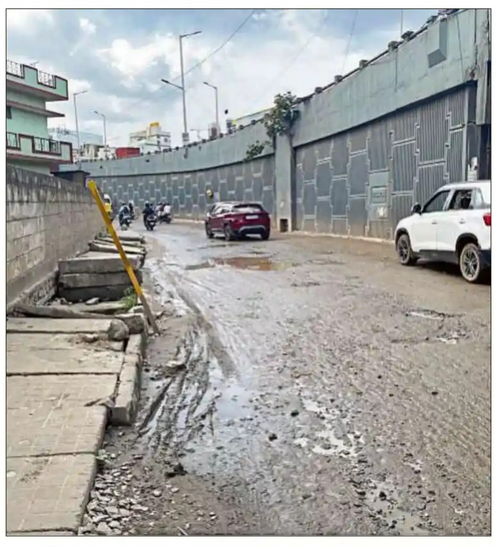
The BTP has also suggested junction improvements at select locations and extensions of existing skywalks. Along with the ongoing pothole-fixing drive, these measures are expected to ease pressure on the stretch.

Karthik Reddy

However, metro work continues to pose challenges. "At Iblur Junction, the BMRCL has started drilling for three new pillars, reducing a four-lane road to two. This has caused severe congestion during morning peak hours," Reddy said. The work is expected to continue until November 30, likely causing jams from Madiwala to Iblur.

Chokepoints identified

Silk Board Junction, Iblur Junction, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Ecospace Junction, Mahadevapura, Kadubeesanahalli, Nagawara Junction, Hennur Junction, HSR Layout, Horamavu Junction, Kasturi Nagar, Babusapalya, and Kalyan Nagar Junction.



Commuters using this stretch at Nagawara spend a lot of time negotiating potholes.
DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

ORR service lanes between KR Puram & Hebbal crumble despite Rs 74-crore allocation

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Service lanes along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) between KR Puram and Hebbal—a corridor lined with upscale hotels, tech parks and offices—remain in ruins even after the civic body splurged Rs 74 crore on their development.

Potholes dot the stretch at regular intervals, while loose stones cover sections near Hennur, Nagawara and Veerannapalya junctions. The main carriageway, fully white-topped, still holds up better than the battered service lanes.

"In the last two months, I have seen civic workers fill up potholes at least three times," said Arun Prakash, a regular commuter on the service road. "First, it was tar, then sand mixed with stones. None of these quick fixes have helped motorists. The potholes are back, and the streetlights remain dysfunctional," he added.

One side of the service road between Kasturi Nagar and Kalyan Nagar was asphalted recently, but the other side crumbles under craters. Motorists often halt and swerve into the next lane to avoid them. Large potholes slow down traffic near Horamavu, behind the Vijaya Bank Colony bus stand, and before the Ramamurthy Nagar underpass.

Between Hennur and Hebbal, the service lanes have deteriorated so badly that driving through them feels like an obstacle course. At Hennur Junction, the damage begins right at the intersection and worsens further ahead. From Nagawara to Veerannapalya, almost no tar remains, forcing motorists to crawl over loose stones for nearly two kilometres.

Ongoing metro construction adds a constant layer of dust to the chaos. Water stagnates regularly near the Ramamurthy Nagar underpass, the Hennur police station, and towards Nagawara.

The now defunct Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had taken up the road development under the High-Density Corridor Improvement Project and set aside Rs 74 crore exclusively for the ORR stretch. Footpath work drags on slowly, despite the project including a three-year maintenance clause.

A senior BBMP official blamed the delay on unfinished BWSSB pipeline work. "There is also work by GAIL that requires traffic re-routing," the official said.

Regular commuters accuse the civic body of dragging its feet on the project, which got approval nearly three years ago. Many believe the authorities are simply stalling, leaving one of the city's most crucial routes to crumble.

Six Bihar special trains cancelled

BENGALURU, DHNS: The following trains will be cancelled due to the construction of the third line (patch tripling) work at Papatapalli–Dornakal bypass stations in Telangana:

Oct 13: Train number 06509 KSR Bengaluru-Danapur Weekly Express Special.

Oct 15: Train number 06510 Danapur-KSR Bengaluru Weekly Express Special.

Oct 12 & 15: Train number 00629 Yeshwantpur–Tuglakabad Parcel Cargo Express.

Oct 12 & 16: Train number 00630 Tuglakabad-Yeshwantpur Parcel Cargo Express.

Oct 12-13: Train number 03251 Danapur-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-weekly Superfast Express Special.

Oct 14-15: Train number 03252 SMVT Bengaluru-Danapur Bi-weekly Superfast Express Special.

Oct 14: Train number 03259 Danapur-SMVT Bengaluru Weekly Superfast Express Special.

Oct 16: Train number 03260 SMVT Bengaluru-Danapur Weekly Superfast Express Special.

Preliminary work to begin soon on Metro Phase 3A

BMRCL floats tenders for geotechnical investigations

BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro is set to begin preliminary work on Phase 3A, a mix of underground and elevated lines connecting Sarjapur in the southeast to Hebbal in the north via the city centre.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has floated tenders worth Rs 6.86 crore to carry out geotechnical investigations in four packages. November 3 is the last date for submitting the bids. Contractors will have 150 days from the award date to complete the work.

Although the union government is yet to approve Phase 3A, a senior BMRCL official said that the state government's nod last December allowed them to carry out preliminary works such as geotechnical investigations and utility identification. Phase 3A's alignment is roughly the same as the controversial tunnel road project.

The geotechnical investigation is the first stage of groundwork for building a metro line. It involves examining the physical properties of soil and rocks to determine the depth and design of foundations—for piers in the case of elevated sections and for tunnels in the case of underground stretches.

The study also helps identify the type of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) needed for tunnelling and enables contractors to estimate construction costs, another senior BMRCL official said.

Meanwhile, French multinational Systra has submitted its report reassessing the cost estimates for Phase 3A.

The report is under evaluation and will be sent to the Centre, which will decide whether to approve Phase 3A or suggest more changes, another senior official said.

The BMRCL had appointed the consultant after the Centre flagged the "high" cost.

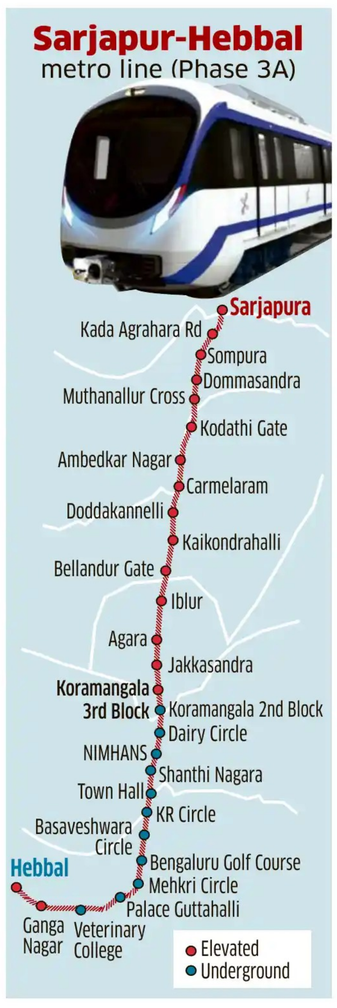
The 36.59-km Phase 3A, also called the Red Line, is estimated to cost Rs 28,405 crore, or Rs 776.3 crore per km, the most expensive in Namma Metro's history.

Phase 3A's tentative deadline is 2031.

Phase 3A will run underground from Koramangala 2nd Block through the Central Business District (CBD). It will feature a double-deck viaduct (metro-cum-road) in the overground sections: Sarjapur to Iblur (14 km) and Agara to Koramangala 3rd Block (2.45 km).

Metro soil tests

- Sarjapur to Carmelaram (elevated, **9.86 km**), including the depot at Sarjapur
  Cost: Rs 1,91,08,960
- Carmelaram to null point near Koramangala 3rd Block (elevated, **9.22 km**)
  Cost: Rs 1,50,66,680
- Null point near Koramangala 2nd Block to KR Circle (underground, **7.695 km**)
  Cost: 1,36,25,612
- KR Circle to Hebbal (**8.816 km**)
  Cost: Rs 2,08,45,792



Caste census: GBA chief seeks citizens' co-operation

BENGALURU, DHNS: M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has urged citizens to actively participate in the ongoing socio-educational survey, saying it would help the government frame better welfare policies.

Rao said about 3.80 lakh households have been covered so far and the survey is expected to conclude in the next 10 days.

"There are about 46 lakh households in the city, a figure we arrived at based on Bescom data. So far, we have reached around 8 per cent of the target," he said, adding that about 18,000 enumerators are involved in the exercise.

He urged residents to co-operate and said Aadhaar or ration cards are essential to prevent duplication. "We have covered about 1.75 lakh households per day and aim to increase the number to 3 lakh a day," he said.

Responding to complaints from enumerators deployed over 35 kilometres away from their homes, Rao said very few government employees reside in constituencies such as Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli. "We have deputed staff from other areas and offered them additional travel allowance. Another 3,000 enumerators will be added soon," he said, adding that about 5,000 employees were exempted from duty due to health issues.

Maheshwar Rao

Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner, GBA, said most enumerators were assigned to their preferred areas. "In our property tax database, there are 23 lakh phone numbers. We have sent WhatsApp and SMS messages requesting people to co-operate. We have also shared an online link where citizens can submit their details directly," he said.

He clarified that voter identity cards are not mandatory for the survey.

EASILY BOUGHT, HARD TO QUIT

Behind every bottle: How cough syrup is fuelling addiction

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

As India rides a growing cough syrup wave, doctors warn that addiction among adults is becoming hard to ignore.

They say easy access, affordability, and the presence of alcohol-like elements are driving the trend.

In Bengaluru, physicians are increasingly turning to nebulisation for asthma patients with recurring cough to reduce dependency on syrups.

Codeine, an opium derivative found in many cough syrups, provides intense relaxation and pain relief, prompting users to consume it repeatedly.

Codeine, an opium derivative found in many cough syrups, provides intense relaxation and pain relief, prompting users to consume it repeatedly.

"Cough syrup is very easy to get addicted to, and the relapses are higher compared to other addictions as withdrawals are hard," said Dr Divyashree, consultant psychiatrist. Addiction often begins during an illness when the syrup is prescribed for a cough. The temporary euphoria encourages users to consume more, leading to dependence. As dosage increases, aerotolerance builds, and people soon find they cannot function without it, she added.

Many pharmaceutical companies have replaced codeine with dextromethorphan, a milder suppressant. However, some dry cough syrups still contain codeine. "Even dextromethorphan can be dangerous if taken in high quantities," said Dr Nidhin Mohan, physician.

He said doctors now prescribe tablets as substitutes, and cases of overdose are referred to psychiatrists for further care.

"The impact of addiction leads to chronic constipation, drowsiness, depression and serious side effects if there are cardiac issues," warned Dr Ravindra Mehta, pulmonologist.

De-addiction

Unlike alcohol, cough syrup dependency cannot be stopped abruptly. Withdrawals are severe, with symptoms such as body pain, diarrhoea, vomiting, watery eyes, and nose. These symptoms often push patients back into addiction.

To aid recovery, psychiatrists sometimes use Opium Substitution Therapy. In this method, medical-grade opium tablets are prescribed to gradually replace the syrup and help patients stabilise.

First GBA meeting on Friday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will chair the first meeting of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Friday.

The authority, chaired by the chief minister, includes 75 members, including MLAs, MPs, and MLCs.

Siddaramaiah

While the agenda has not been disclosed, key topics likely to be discussed include the draft delimitation of wards, objections received, and preparations for long-pending elections to the five city corporations.

The meeting may also review ongoing works such as pothole-filling and discuss utilisation of the Rs 1,100-crore grant promised by the state government.

Officials said the GBA has already released Rs 600 crore to the five corporations for daily maintenance and project works.

Staff shortage

"There is a shortage of assistant engineers and Group C staff. We plan to raise the issue during the meeting," a senior official said.

Actress alleges sexual harassment; director behind bars

Alcohol spiking, blackmail charges lead to arrest

BENGALURU , DHNS

The Rajajinagar police have arrested Kannada actor-director Hemanth Kumar BI, 33, on charges of sexually harassing a 29-year-old television actress.

According to the complaint filed by the actress, who has appeared in multiple television serials, Hemanth, a resident of Health Layout in Nagarabhavi, had approached her in 2022, introducing himself as a producer and associate director.

He promised her the lead role in his upcoming film

Hemanth

'Richie' and signed an agreement with her on April 30, 2022, offering a remuneration of Rs 2 lakh.

However, the actress alleged that the shoot was repeatedly postponed under the pretext of personal reasons. During this period, she claimed, Hemanth began harassing her. He allegedly made inappropriate physical advances and pressured her to wear revealing outfits for certain scenes.

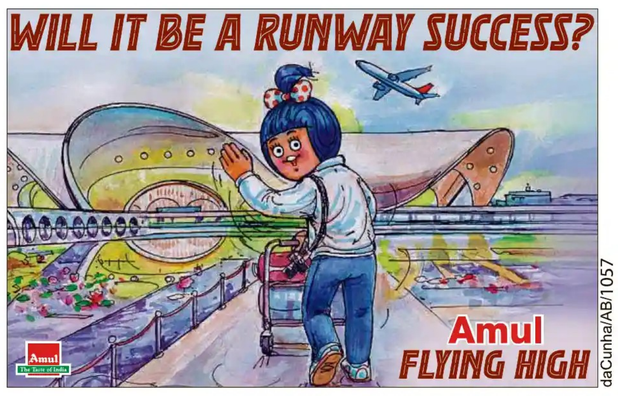
She further alleged that during a promotional event for the film in Mumbai on August 5, 2023, Hemanth attempted to force her to consume alcohol. When she refused, he allegedly spiked her juice. After she began feeling dizzy, he is said to have recorded videos of her in a vulnerable state. The footage was later allegedly edited and used to blackmail her.

The complaint also stated that Hemanth sent his associates to threaten her and her mother, causing mental distress.

Following these incidents, the actress approached the Bengaluru City Civil Court, seeking a permanent injunction against Hemanth and social media platforms to prevent the circulation of the videos.

The court granted an interim order restraining the publication or sharing of the content, according to a statement from the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North).

Hemanth was arrested on Sunday and has been remanded to judicial custody. He has been booked under IPC sections 354A (sexual harassment) and 354D (stalking).



NCR after rowdy throws jail bash

BENGALURU, DHNS: The police have registered a non-cognizable report (NCR) after videos of rowdy-sheeter Srinivasa alias Gubbachhi Seena, currently jailed on murder charges, celebrating his birthday inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison went viral.

"As of now, the NCR is registered based on the contents of the complaint. If any other complaint is given, a relevant case will be filed. Our officers have said an internal inquiry is underway," said Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru Police Commissioner.

Last week, B Dayananda, Additional Director General of Police (Prisons), initiated an internal inquiry after the deceased's wife approached him about the video.

Theft case: Inspector accused of underreporting recovered gold

BENGALURU, DHNS: A city-based activist and advocate has petitioned Inspector General of Police (Central Range) Labhu Ram, alleging that the inspector of the Surya Nagar police station underreported the quantity of gold recovered in a theft case.

Venkatachalapathy, the advocate, claimed that Inspector Sanjeev Kumar Mahajan and his team recovered around 2 kg of gold, but declared only 200 grams in their official report. He alleged that the remaining gold was shared among the inspector and his personnel.

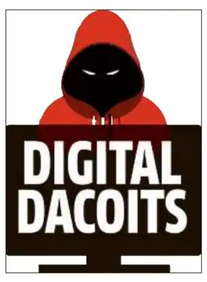
He also said after arresting the suspects, the police rounded up shop owners who had purchased the stolen gold, held them in a lodge, and recovered about 2 kg from them.

The Additional Superintendent of Police has initiated an inquiry into the allegations.

Investment scam busted; Rs 6-cr assets seized, 8 arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS

A cybercrime gang, duping unsuspecting victims with false promises of high investment returns, has been busted by the Kengeri police.



Acting on a tip-off from an accomplice who had allegedly been mistreated by the gang, the police conducted coordinated raids across seven locations in the city on October 6, leading to the arrest of eight suspects.

Their identities have not yet been disclosed, as the investigation is ongoing.

During the operation, the police seized digital equipment and documents worth an estimated Rs 6 crore. The recovered items include 19 laptops, 40 mobile phones, 11 pen drives, 42 SIM cards, four iPads, two hard disks, five CPUs, three rubber seals, 10 memory cards, a currency counting machine, and several documents containing bank account details.

According to the investigators, the gang used messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram, as well as social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, to lure victims with the promise of high returns on investments.

Once the targets were convinced, the suspects would send them malicious APK files that gave them remote access to the victims' phones and banking apps. The stolen funds were then transferred to mule bank accounts.

Following the arrests, the Kengeri police registered a fresh FIR and have launched efforts to identify and reach out to the victims of the fraud.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

71st Wildlife Week Closing Ceremony: CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar to attend; Karnataka Forest Department; Vidhana Soudha; 11 am.

Basavadi Sharan Flower Sellers Jayanti: Akhand Karnataka Flower Sellers Sangha; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 11 am.

CULTURAL

8 artists, 8 performances: Enekam; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat; Kumarakrupa Road; 11.30 am.

Yakshagana Performance: Kuriya Vittala Shastri Cultural Foundation; Gaunasaurabha Yakshagana School, Vyalikaval; 3 pm.

Drama Performance: 'Tyagi'; Minister Ramalinga Reddy to attend; Pratibha Kalaniketana; Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 4 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

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CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	70%
Sunset (Oct 8)	6:06 pm
Sunrise (Oct 9)	6:09 am
Moonrise	6:13 pm
Moonset	6:02 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Worker stabbed to death by friend

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 34-year-old daily wager was stabbed to death by his friend in Veeranapalya, Amruthahalli, on Monday night.

The accused has been identified as Raghu Ganju, who allegedly attacked his friend, Raju Ganju, with a knife in an open area before attempting to flee. Passersby who witnessed the incident chased and caught Raghu before alerting the Amruthahalli police.

A senior police officer said that both men hailed from Jharkhand and were employed at an underconstruction site.

During questioning, Raghu told the police that Raju had been frequently calling and trying to befriend his wife.

Enraged, Raghu picked up a quarrel and, in a fit of anger, slit Raju's throat before attempting to stab him again.

The police arrested the accused, who has been remanded to judicial custody. Further investigations are underway.

B'luru-Hyd VB to run on Fridays

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The South Central Railway (SCR) has cancelled a proposed change in the operation of the Kacheguda–Yeshwantpur–Kacheguda Vande Bharat Express (20703/20704).

The SCR had earlier notified that the train would not run on Fridays, starting December 4. This proposed change now stands cancelled, with immediate effect. The train will continue to operate on all days except Wednesday, it said.

Headphones on, tragedy strikes: Student hit by oncoming train

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 22-year-old BBM student was killed after a passenger train ran over him while he was crossing the railway track in Baiyappanahalli on Tuesday morning. He was reportedly wearing earbuds when the incident occurred.

The deceased has been identified as Shashi Kumar G, a native of Vellore in Tamil Nadu and resident of Sultanpalya.

The police said the incident occurred around 7.30 am when he was on his way to college in Yelahanka. He was crossing the track near an apartment and failed to notice the approaching train as he had earbuds plugged in. The loco pilot of the passenger train alerted the Baiyappanahalli police, who shifted the body for postmortem.

Family members said Kumar was a second-year student and had exams scheduled on Tuesday. The police have recovered his mobile phone and are conducting further investigations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Ms. Jane Ruhama Rashmi Attavar, daughter of Late Dr. Manamohan Attavar ('Owner') has lost / misplaced the original Agreement For Sale dated 17.02.1995 executed by Mr. Ramamuthaiah, son of Late Ramaiah along with his wife, Mrs. Lakshmamma and their children viz., Mr. Jayram, Mr. Mahadev, Mr. Nagesh, Mrs. Kempamma, Mrs. Renukamma and Mrs. Hanumakka in favour of Owner with respect to the land bearing Survey No. 13/1C measuring 08 Acres 10 Guntas, situated at Ganakallu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District ('Subject Property').

Despite best efforts, Ms. Rashmi is unable to trace the aforementioned original Agreement For Sale dated 17.02.1995 for which a Police Complaint intimating the loss of the original document has been filed with Bengaluru City Police Station, vide Lost Report No. 1837673/2025 dated 06.10.2025.

Members of the public are hereby notified that in the event any person/s has/have found/ discovered/ is in custody of the original Agreement For Sale dated 17.02.1995, such person/s is/are hereby requested to return the said Agreement For Sale to the undersigned, at the below-mentioned address.

Sd/-

Mr. Srinivas B.R.,
Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka,
No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7, Brunton Road, Craig Park Layout,
Bengaluru – 560025.
Tel: 080-69548770.

Date: 08.10.2025
Place: Bengaluru

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How industry tag helps Kannada films

The industry, based in Bengaluru, expects the government's recent initiatives to usher in positive changes

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

Filmmakers are excited about the government's recent outreach to the Kannada film industry.

Last month, the Karnataka government formed a study committee to extend its industrial policy to cover the Kannada film industry.

Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president M Narasimhalu sees three main benefits— lower electricity tariff, bank loans with lower interest, and easy access to industrial land.

Industries enjoy lower electricity rates compared to commercial establishments. Once accorded the status of an industry, studios and movie theatres will pay lower rates, he says.

Chaitanya K M, director of hits like 'Aa Dinagalu', expects loans to become more accessible and affordable. Private financiers charge a monthly interest of 3 to 5%, while banks charge only 8 to 9% annually, he says.

"Industry status will help producers raise money. It will become easier to evaluate a film to sell OTT, satellite and audio rights," he says.

Chaitanya believes the industry must also change. "There have been instances of banks lending for films and the borrowers absconding. Incidents like that make banks never trust a film producer again," he adds.

Industry status could also mean better documentation in an industry that works largely without contracts. "In fact, contracts help our talents and technicians, and also our producers as they can hold people accountable to what they have signed up for," says Chaitanya.

K Manju, producer of films like 'Rama Shama Bhama' and 'Raja Hulu', expects better subsidies under the industrial policy. "We also need a film city, a film institute and new technology," he says.

Narasimhalu expects the government to sanction industrial land at subsidised rates to build studios.

Industry benefits

- Cheaper power for studios, cinemas
- Access to affordable bank loans
- Reduced dependency on financiers
- Subsidised land for studios, labs
- Better transparency and accountability
- Support for a film city and film institutes

High rentals

Tharun Sudhir, who directed the hit Darshan starrer 'Kaatera', says, "It is expensive to rent private land to erect huge sets. When I wanted 12 acres to create a village set for 'Kaatera', we just couldn't find a place. We then split the village into two parts and shot for three to four months," he says. He hopes the government's initiative will address problems such as this one.

"The Kannada film industry cannot depend only on producers in Karnataka. We need mass investments and studio collaborations for the growth of our industry," says Mansore, who directed the critically acclaimed 'Nathicharami' and '19.20.21'.

"Today, most big films are shot in Hyderabad as the rents for private land in Karnataka are expensive. If we get industrial land, most large-scale productions can be mounted in Karnataka," he says. He expects big production houses like KVN, PRK and Hombale to shoot in Karnataka once the road is smoother.

Accountability

An important challenge is ensuring transparency in collections, says Chaitanya. "Compared to other languages, we have the most unverifiable box office reports. The recognition as an industry will bring in verifiable box office reports," he says.

Tharun says the downside is that the fresh incentives could be misused. "The government is already giving a lot of benefits, such as subsidies, and many people make films just to claim the subsidies," he says, adding that the new benefits must be put to genuine use.

For 'Kaatera', director Tharun Sudhir couldn't find a 12-acre stretch of land to put up a village set.

Mixed reactions to CM's Metro renaming proposal

Prominent citizens react to Siddaramaiah's proposal to rename Namma Metro after Basavanna

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently announced his plan to approach the Centre to rename the Bengaluru metro to Basava Metro. The move aims to honour the 12th-century social reformer Basaveshwara who was known for promoting equality and inclusivity.

The announcement has sparked debate online. *Metrolife* asked prominent Bengalureans for their views on the proposal.

'Name is already inclusive'

Writer and 'Mundhe Banni' podcast founder Vasant Shetty sees no need for a name change — 'Namma Metro', he says, is "beautiful and inclusive".

Kannada lecturer and Dalit activist Hulikunte Murthy is also sceptical. "'Namma' includes everyone. Renaming it could prompt other communities in Karnataka to seek similar recognition for figures like Kanakadasa, Valmiki or Kempegowda," he notes.

Purushotham Bilimale, chairman of the Karnataka Development Authority and a Basava follower, says renaming public projects sets a risky precedent. "If one government names the metro after a historical figure, another could rename it tomorrow. It becomes a political exercise rather than a move in public interest," he explains.

Activist Tara Krishnaswamy calls the proposal a symbolic gesture often practised by politicians. "While some of us are emotionally attached to 'Namma Metro', such name changes are common in India to honour local icons. It may cause some disappointment, but in the long run, it won't affect the metro's functioning or importance," she says.

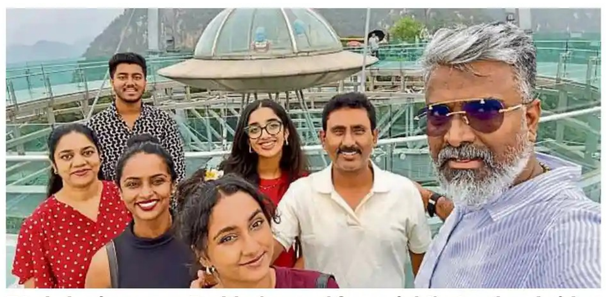
Advocate and public transport enthusiast Vinay Sreenivasa concurs that the change "will have little real impact." He believes the government should instead focus on spreading Basaveshwara's vachanas and values. "We should work to eradicate casteism and ensure everyone's welfare," he says.

According to Sreenivasa, the true way to honour Basava is to expand public transport and make it more accessible. "Right now, the metro is not affordable for the poor or marginalised because fares are high," he adds.

Many prominent Bengalureans say the Metro's current name is inclusive. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

'Metro should embody Basava's values'

However, writer and activist Du Saraswati "sees no problem with the proposal." She calls Basaveshwara's 12th-century movement as a revolutionary blend of spirituality and social justice that gave the working class a voice. "For the first time, people from lower and working castes, cobblers, blacksmiths, and weavers, were recognised as thinkers and poets. That inclusiveness is something we can be proud of," she says. If Basava Metro embodies his spirit of equality and inclusiveness, Saraswati adds, it would be a meaningful tribute.



E Lakshminarayan Reddy (second from right) at a glass bridge in Shilinxia near Beijing last month. He is seen with his family and friends.

Warmer ties spur tourism to China

Beijing and Shanghai are popular picks

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Amid thawing India-China relations, China is slowly emerging as a new travel destination for Bengalureans. Tour operators say that the visa process has become easier. They also credit the growing interest to the quest for less-explored destinations.

Leisure travel to China had stalled after the pandemic. "In 2024, they began issuing tourist visas in small numbers. Full restrictions were lifted this March," says K P Manjunath, founder, Designer Getaways, Sahakarnagar. Before the pandemic, most travel to China was for business, adds Sanjeevi Singh, founder-CEO of IVS Holidays, Sanjaynagar. "Now, businesspersons are taking their families along for leisure," she notes. Manohar J of Tu Route, Jayanagar, concurs: "Either companies are rewarding employees with family trips or families are choosing to accompany them for holiday," he says.

E Lakshminarayana Reddy chose China after seeing travel reels on Instagram and due to limited vacation time. "We had about a week. We decided to explore a few cities in a large country like China rather than rush through a smaller one like Vietnam and still miss parts of it," says the real estate developer from Sahakarnagar. His and his friend's families rode the bullet train, and visited the Great Wall of China, which was on their wishlist.

While Beijing and Shanghai remain top picks, some are venturing further. HSR Layout resident and bonsai artist Divya Maurya recently trekked through Huangshan (also called the Yellow Mountain) with her all-women group. The group also explored the ancient villages of Hongcun and Xidi, Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, famous for its sandstone pillars, and the glass-bottomed bridge located within the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon area. She calls China "unexplored".

China's appeal lies in its blend of history, modernity, and nature, say travellers who plan to visit the country next year. "Despite being our neighbour, we know very little about it," says a north Bengaluru resident.

Until recently, Bengaluru travellers would visit Mumbai for biometric verification. The biometric requirement for shorter stays was exempted a few months ago. "We have seen a 5% rise in visa applications since," says Sanjeevi.

Travel companies' decision to avoid promoting the Maldives, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan has also nudged tourists towards China. "People no longer see China as an 'enemy country'," says Manjunath.

Meanwhile, pilgrim tourism to Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake in Tibet resumed in June, and two Bengaluru operators *Metrolife* spoke to had since sent two to three groups. Eight people have booked for next year's pilgrimage with Adigas Yatra, Basavanagudi.

With Indigo restarting direct daily flights to mainland China from Kolkata on October 26, operators expect interest to grow further. Some are actively promoting China as a travel destination. Sanjeevi is heading to China soon for a "market survey". "People are now enquiring about China after Bali and Vietnam," she says.

POPCORN

Poor thing

Ranveer Singh, hero of blockbuster Bollywood hits, once said: "We didn't have a lot of money when I was growing up. So my parents would save up for that one big summer holiday abroad. I remember going to Singapore, Indonesia and Italy. But most often it was the US." To which a fan said, "I wish nobody has to go through this kind of struggle in life." Another said it had set poverty goals for him. Don't know if Ranveer, who incidentally is married to the equally if not more famous Deepika Padukone, has heard that line about poverty, sometimes attributed to Bob Marley: "They are so poor that all they have is money.

Filmmaker creating platform to recycle discarded footage

A Bengalurean is coming up with a platform to help filmmakers sell footage they haven't included in their films.

Kaaranji Shreedhar, who directed the Kannada film 'Kaaranji' (2009), has been working on an AI-powered initiative called FilmFusion. Its objective is to enable producers to sell parts of their films they have shot and discarded. Generic shots are easy to recycle — for instance, landscapes fit into any narrative as they don't feature specific actors. Colour grading can help the footage integrate seamlessly with any project, he explains.

Kaaranji Shreedhar

"The ratio is usually 1:6 — only a sixth of what we shoot goes into a feature film. A lot of footage, shot with great effort and with the help of a full professional unit, gets thrown away," he says. He has a website up already (filmfusion.tech), and has applied for a patent.

Many platforms offer aggregated images and music that subscribers can download and use for a fee. FilmFusion aims to provide a similar service for filmmakers. "I am now approaching big names in the film industry to support his initiative," he told *Metrolife*.

EVENTS

Fusion dance
'Liberi Di in performance', a fusion of acrobatics, dance and theatre, will be held at Sabha BLR, Kamaraj Road, on October 10, 7 pm. For details and to RSVP, check @sabhablr on Instagram.

Improv workshop
Super Silly Sunday, an improv and storytelling workshop, will be held at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on October 12, 11 am to 12.30 pm. For ages 7-10. Entry free. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Storytelling session
'Ganga's Curse: A re-telling of the Puranic story', a storytelling session, will be presented by Kutumb Foundation at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, on October 10, 6.30 pm to 8 pm. For more details, check @attagalatta on Instagram.

From a rehearsal of the production 'Big Bang Carnaval'.

Bangalore Chorus celebrates a decade with musical hits

TEAM METROLIFE

The Bangalore Chorus, led by Maya Mascarenhas, returns with its latest production, 'Big Bang Carnaval', at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, on October 11 and 12. Co-directed by Judith Roby Bidapa, the production marks the choir's 10th anniversary.

The performance is the annual concert under the 'Big Bang' series, which began in 2017. This edition's theme is 'carnaval' (meaning 'carnival' in Brazilian) — a celebration of music and theatre. It symbolises joy and festivity. "Each year, we explore a new theme in the series. This time, we wanted to present a medley of genres varying from classic to rock to hip-hop, and spotlight talented children," said Maya.

The production will feature a lively mix of songs from popular musicals — a medley from 'Wicked', including hits like 'Popular', 'One short day', and 'Defying gravity'; as well as numbers from 'In the Heights' such as 'Carnaval del Barrio' and the title song, 'Ascot gavotte' from 'My Fair Lady', a duet from 'Lakmé', and 'A musical' from 'Something Rotten!'.

Also part of the lineup are 'Children will listen' from 'Into the Woods', and 'Louder than words' from 'Tick, Tick... Boom!', both chosen for their message.

"Through the songs we've selected, we wanted to encourage adults to reflect on how children learn from what they see and hear around them," Maya said. The concert will raise funds for the Gubbachi Learning Community, which supports the education of migrant and slum children in Bengaluru.

'Big Bang Carnaval', Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, October 11 and 12, 4 pm and 7 pm. WhatsApp 95380 82715. Tickets online.

10-day expo of Indian handicrafts from Friday

The Diwali edition of The Indian Artisans Haat, an expo that brings together weavers and craftspersons from across India, will open in Bengaluru this Friday. It is being presented by *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*.

Over 10 days, visitors can explore Channapatna toys and tableware crafted by the Nugu tribes of Karnataka, dokra art and neem-wood utensils from Odisha, and crockery and works of marble carving from Uttar Pradesh.

The art section will feature Tanjore, Warli, Pattachitra, Bhil, and Gond paintings. One can expect oxidised jewellery from West Bengal, Jaipur pearls from Rajasthan, Lambani ornaments and water reed bags from Karnataka, juttis from Punjab, and jute handbags from Manipur. The handloom range will feature Ilkal sarees of Karnataka, Sambalpuri sarees from Odisha, chikankari kurtas from Lucknow, Bagalpuri weaves from Bihar, among others.

Also on display will be antique furniture pieces from Rajasthan, alongside carpets, dhurries, and rugs from Uttar Pradesh.

Indian classical dance and music performances will be held over the weekend. Live demonstrations of traditional crafts such as lath bangles, Punjabi juttis, and Lambani jewellery are also scheduled.

From October 10 to 19, 10 am to 8 pm, at Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road. For details, call 98803 31685/98865 07007.

Medical clowning group looking for volunteers

They will hold a month-long workshop to recruit more members

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The Doctor Parrots Organisation, a healthcare clowning trust, will hold a month-long workshop to expand their team of clowns.

Healthcare clowns or medical clowns typically visit hospitals, hospices and other healthcare facilities to engage with patients undergoing complicated and painful treatments. "Clowning offers patients distraction from the physical and mental pain of being confined to a hospital bed," says Rajesh Pandathil, one of the members of the team.

The clowns work with the patients in pairs.

Multiple studies suggest that medical clowning reduces anxiety and stress in patients and their caregivers, which translates to shorter hospital stays.

Using the ward as their stage, these clowns perform interactive sets with the nurses, doctors, patients and caregivers. "We do not have anything prepared before visiting the place. It is all improvised and developed based on what we see and hear around us in the ward," says Pandathil.

At the workshop, which will be held on the weekends, participants will be guided through games and exercises. They will also get to practice their skills in real-life hospital settings. "The exercises are designed to enhance and hone one's listening ability as that is how the act is developed. As the clowns work with the audience in pairs, they will also be trained on values like partnership and radical acceptance of their partners," he explains.

Doctor Parrots was set up two years ago by Sriharsha G N, Pandathil and a group of others with the help of Igor Narovsky from Latvia and Suzy Ferguson from the UK. The team currently comprises six clowns, but they hope to add six more to meet the rising demand from hospitals. Ranging in age from the early 20s to the mid-50s, the team members include IT professionals, actors and teachers.

Since 2023, the group has visited HCG Cancer Centre, Indira Gandhi Child Health Hospital (IGCHH), slums across the city, and Snehadara Foundation, a special school for kids with autism. They hold sessions at IGCHH once every two weeks.

A curtain raiser for the workshop will be held on October 11, 4 pm at Untitled Space, J P Nagar. The workshop begins on October 25. For details, call 99005 89230.

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Prime Minister

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16k+	International Delegates	**400+**	Exhibitors	**550+**	Start-Ups
800+	Thought Leaders	**42k** sqm+	Exhibition Area	**175k+**	Attendees

11 Years of Telecom Transformation: A step towards Viksit Bharat

Samaveshit (Inclusive)

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Surakshit (Secure)

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Twarit (Responsive)

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In Jayanagar, residents face potholes because of poor drainage

Allege no repairs despite repeated complaints

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Drainwater and sewage seep onto the road in the area.

Potholes in Jayanagar 9th Block. DH PHOTOS/ SHRADDHA A K

Jayanagar is renowned for being one of the better-maintained areas of the city. Still, residents of the area suffer due to poor water and sewage lines, severe waterlogging and poor roads.

The 39th Cross Road between East End Main Road and Bannerghatta Road, located in Jayanagar 9th Block, is a major thoroughfare that connects the eastern end of Jayanagar to the North, South, and West, and also serves as a key route linking Jayanagar to Bannerghatta.

The road is filled with potholes around sewage drains and has uneven patches over old potholes. The main issue is caused by poor drainage. The 39th Cross Road is located on a slope, which prevents proper drainage of water. Instead, water flows in from both ends, and the built-up underground pressure of the water ends up unplugging the sewage drain lid, forcing rainwater and sewage to overflow all over.

The stretch has multiple main roads attached to it, but East End 'D' Main usually bears the brunt of all the waterlogging.

Abdul Subhan K, a resident of 'D' Main, explained how the water pressure builds up. "Since we live on a slope, the water gets collected at Jayadeva Hospital, goes towards the cemetery, and then flows into this road."

He also explained that the overflowing water goes knee-high and enters the parking lots of apartment complexes and, in some extreme cases, even houses. "Multiple people have woken to their house filled with water up to their ankles."

The drain that overflows is right next to a supermarket. The manager said the issue had always existed but worsened over the past four years.

"Despite multiple complaints, we have not had any sort of repairs done. Officials just installed a divider and patched up all the water damage on the other side of the road."

He added that only the side where traffic flows from East End towards Bannerghatta Road, on the other side of the overflowing drain, was patched up, but unevenly.

Muralidhar, from East End 'A' Main Road, who lives right next to the pothole, recounted his multiple attempts to contact BWSSB officials.

"Since there is a major water pipeline that runs through this, we have to talk to a specialised engineer, but that engineer is not assigned to this area, so we have to talk to the engineer who oversees this area."

He explained how, in the end, the issues are just left as unread messages to BWSSB officials.

Residents said Jayanagar MLA, C K Ramamurthy, had visited the area multiple times and promised to fix the issue soon. Ramamurthy did not respond to phone calls from *DH*.

A BWSSB official said GBA was in charge of the stormwater drains.

"If there is any sewage overflow, we will attend to it. There's an issue with the subline on 39th Main Road, and we have informed the respective team. They will take action," she explained.

A GBA official said they had found that overflowing issues were caused by the blockage of the stormwater drain under the East End Road and 39th Street intersection, and it is currently being cleaned. The whole 39th Cross Road stretch from 11th Main till Bannerghatta road will be asphalted . "Once the drain is cleaned, it will fix the overflowing issue, and we will lay the roads," she told *DH*.

Crater-ridden BEL Circle leaves commuters worried

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Potholes that dot BEL Circle make navigating the important junction back breaking. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Circle, an important junction that connects North Bengaluru with the rest of the city on Outer Ring Road (ORR) is dotted with potholes. Though the junction sees heavy traffic and vehicle density, the Bengaluru North City corporation officials have not done much to ensure that the ride is smooth.

Right at the middle of the circle, potholes are so bad that many commuters have suffered back injuries.

"There is so much traffic at the junction that many times we will have to wait for multiple signals to pass through. Hence, we tend to drive fast to pass through the circle and that's when the potholes in the circle hurt the most. All the vehicles are in such a hurry that we cannot even slow down to navigate through the potholes," said Aditi B, a regular commuters through the stretch.

To add to this, the commuters moving from BEL Circle towards Yeshwantpur and Malleshwaram have a much bigger problem since both the Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee flyover and the M S Ramaiah are in a bad shape.

Bumpy ride

While the flyover has only a few potholes and can be navigated through, the M S Ramaiah road only offers a bumpy ride since the road has not been restored properly after the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) took up underground cabling works.

The road is a major connecting stretch and also houses many educational institutions. "For more than six months, we had to navigate through half dug up roads. Traffic snarls were common. Now, they have only restored the road in patches and the road is so uneven that you cannot ride through 100 m smoothly," said Suhasini M, a student of M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology and a regular commuter on the stretch.

Many students waiting at the bus stops also complained of dust and a lack of a proper waiting area after the KPTCL works were completed.

The bad state of the roads frequently results in traffic snarls and traffic police working in the area said that additional staff are deputed near the MS Ramaiah road often.

Senior officials from the Bengaluru North Corporation said that the works at the BEL Circle were put on hold since there were discussions about taking up the connecting roads for white topping. "We were told that white topping might start soon. So, we did not take up any work," said an engineer from the Bengaluru North Corporation.

Swarna Deepavali with GRT's golden sparkle

Launched in 1964, GRT Jewellers has grown into one of India's most respected jewellery brands, admired for its timeless designs, superior craftsmanship and the trust of generations of customers. Over six decades, the brand has built a legacy of creating jewellery that celebrates life's most meaningful occasions. Today, GRT operates 66 showrooms, with 65 across south India and one in Singapore, offering a wide collection in gold, diamonds, platinum, silver and precious gemstones. Every Deepavali, GRT brings its signature Swarna Deepavali (silver for gold) campaign, and this year is no exception. With every gold jewellery purchase, customers will receive silver of equal weight absolutely free, along with Rs 100 less per gram on gold jewellery. This double benefit makes the festive season more special. The campaign is celebrated as Swarna Deepavali in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and as Thanga Deepavali in Tamil Nadu.

DH GRT Jewellers

Festive sparkling offers

GRT Jewellers has also announced a host of offers for the festive season. These offers make this the perfect time to celebrate with the brilliance of GRT jewellery.

- 25 grams of silver free per carat on diamonds,
- Two grams of silver free per carat on uncut diamonds
- Free silver equal to weight of platinum jewellery
- 25 per cent off on making charges of silver articles (except special items)
- 10 percent off on MRP on silver jewellery and gift articles

Curated by DH Brandspot

Amid fad for robotic jumbos, two mutts lock tusks over female elephant

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

They switched to mechanical elephants

- Taralabalu mutt at Sirigere in Chitradurga district
- Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty gifted a 3-metre-tall mechanical elephant weighing 800 kg to Umamaheshwara Veerabhadreshwara temple in Davangere earlier this year

A file photo of elephant Subhadre being given a bath when she was under the care of the Krishna mutt in Udupi. The Krishna mutt gave up its ownership of the jumbo to the Honnali mutt in Davangere six years ago, but wants it back row.

Some temples and religious mutts in Karnataka have started using robotic elephants for religious activities, owing to growing awareness on how it's a 'torture' to the captive gentle giants.

But two mutts have locked horns, rather tuskers, over owning 33-year-old female jumbo Subhadre.

The forest department of Davangere has now decided to write a letter to Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre, urging the government to issue an order directing all mutts, temples to use robotic elephants henceforth.

In 1993, at the request of the Krishna Mutt in Udupi, the department had given them a female elephant. It was named Subhadre by the mutt.

In 2015, when the elephant's health deteriorated, she was sent to the Sakrebailu elephant camp in Shivamogga district for treatment.

Subhadre recovered and the forest department wrote to Udupi Mutt, asking them to take her back. However, the mutt wrote back, saying the department could keep her permanently as it would be difficult for them to bear the elephant's expenses.

The forest department agreed, but said the mutt would have to pay for the jumbo's upkeep.

In April 2019, the Udupi mutt wrote again to the department, asking the latter to shift Subhadre to Hirekal Mutt in Honnali taluk of Davangere district, as they (Udupi mutt) were finding it difficult to fund her expenses.

The forest department obliged. Now, Udupi mutt wants Subhadre back, much to the chagrin of Honnali mutt.

Deputy conservator of forests (Davangere division) Harshavardhan P N told *DH*, "Elephants are highly sensitive animal. They may go on a rampage on seeing crowds or when crackers are burst during processions in temples or mutts".

Elephants continue to be used during Mysuru Dasara, only because it has been a tradition for many centuries, he said.

Hirekal Mutt seer Wodeyar Channamallikarjuna Shivacharya Swami told *DH*,

"The authorities of Krishna Mutt in Udupi got the ownership of the elephant issued to us cancelled, some months go. They now want it back. Challenging this, we have approached the High Court. The elephant has been in the mutt for the past six years and we have obtained permission from the forest department to take care of it".

Noted environmentalist B M Kumaraswamy told *DH*, "Using elephants or other wild animals for religious activities may give pleasure to humans. But it is a torture to the animals. So, the forest department must encourage temples, mutts to use robotic animals".

GOLDEN PALM STATION CANTEEN(GPSC)
AND ITS EXTENSION CANTEENS, BANGALORF (KARNATAKA)

JOB VACANCY

1. Applications are invited for the following posts :-

Name of Post	Golden Palm Station Canteen (GPSC), Bangalore	GPC Cell, Bangalore	GPEC, Sena Vihar	GPEC, Whitefield	Honorarium (All inclusive)
Assistant Manager	02	-	-	-	Rs 27,000/-
Storekeeper	02	-	-	01	Rs 24,000/-
Assistant Manager (Accounts)	02	01	01	-	Rs 26,000/-
Security Supervisor	01	-	-	-	Rs 23,000/-
Billing Clerks-cum-Salesperson (BCS)	08	-	-	-	Rs 22,000/-
Smart Card Clerk	01	-	-	-	Rs 23,000/-
Watchman	04	-	-	-	Rs 21,000/-
Computer Network Technician	01	-	-	-	Rs 22,000/-
Total	**21**	**01**	**01**	**01**	

2. Employment will be for 11 (eleven) months on contract basis. Interested candidates may visit GPC website **qpcscblr.co.in** for details of eligibility criteria, format for submitting applications-cum-Bio Data Form, Medical Fitness Certificate, Discipline Vigilance DV Ban/ No Cases of Corruption was reported against the applicant during service**(For ESM)** and No FIR/ Criminal Cases is pending against the applicant in any Court of Law/ Police Station**(For Civilians).**

3. Applications-cum-Bio Data Form alongwith all its connected documents as per Paragraph No 2 above to be forwarded to Canteen Officer, Golden Palm Canteen Cell, C/o HQ K&K Sub Area, Cubbon Road, Bangalore-01 through registered post or Mail ID : **gpccellkksa@gmail.com** by **23 Oct 2025**. Applications received after **23 Oct 2025** will not be considered.

NOTE :-1. Attach Resume/ Curriculum Vitae(CV) of max two pages.

2. Eligible Wards/ Dependents of ESM will attach necessary birth certificate supported by Board of Secondary School Examination Certificate alongwith copies of Pension Pay Order (PPO) and extract of the Discharge Book containing Family Details.

3. Medical Fitness Certificate.

(a) For Ex-serviceman (ESM) - Medical Fitness Certificate to be obtained from respective dependent ECHS Poly Clinics.

(b) For Civilians - Medical Fitness Certificate to be attached duly authenticated by a **"Registered Medical Practitioner".**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज

अल्पकालीन ई०-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई०–निविदा संख्या : RDSpl/SAHIBGANJ/14/2025-26

क्र0 / ग्रुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 में)	निविदा शुल्क (रू0 में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय
1	साहेबगंज जिला अंतर्गत सिद्धो–कान्हू स्टेडियम के गैलरी विस्तारीकरण एवं अन्य कार्य।	3,96,47,934/-	10,000/-	7,93,000/-	12 माह

1. वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : दिनांक 10.10.2025
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक 10.10.2025 से दिनांक 30.10.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 01.11.2025 को 2.00 PM बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी। निविदा शुल्क की राशि किसी भी परिस्थिति में वापस नहीं की जाएगी।
5. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
6. प्राक्कलित राशि एवं तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है।

नोट : विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR 363466 Rural Development (25-26)_D ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice No. : 05-GSU-MLDT-25-26, dated 04.10.2025. Open e-Tender is invited by Chief Project Manager/GSU, Eastern Railway, Malda, Malda Town Office Building, PO-Jhaljhalia, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) for the following work : **Tender No. : 5-GSU-MLDT-25-26. Name of work :** Open e-tender for provision of Earthwork in embankment, Blanketting, Extension of Minor Bridges, Foot Over Bridges and P.way works for conversion of Halt stations into Crossing stations at Kurmahat, Gangwara, Gonudham & Panjwara Road stations under Malda Division of Eastern Railway. **Tender Value :** ₹ 43,59,66,740.94. **Tender closing date** : 28.10.2025. **Website & Notice Board : www.ireps.gov.in** (MLD-190/2025-26)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Open Tender Notice No. B-E29-TRD-TNDR-26-2025-26 date:03.10.2025
PUB/1242
Tenders are invited in IREPS by the undersigned for the following works.
Tender No.: Tender No. B-E29-TRD-TNDR-26-2025-26 **Name of work:** Additions and alterations to OHE at RJY yard of BZA Division in connection with Godavari Pushkarams-2027. **Approx. Value :** (₹) 1,28,13,357.28 **Completion period** :12 Months **Bid Security (EMD) :** (₹) 2,14,100/- **Date of closing**: 23.10.2025 at 15.00 Hrs. **Cost of Tender form (₹) :** Nil
NB: If the date of opening day happens to be holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day.
Please Visit our site at **www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, TRD, Vijayawada
A1565
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORK
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.13-2025-SrDENCo. Name of work:- i)** Proposed coaching maintenance depot at TKWD (Phase-I) **ii)** Creation of trip maintenance / advance inspection centers for inspection and maintenance activity of electric locomotives at TKWD. **Approximate Cost of the work:-** Rs.38,30,55,085.48/- **Earnest Money:-** Rs. 20,65,300.00/- **Completion period of the work.** :- 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:-** 12 Months. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:-** 13-2025-SrDENCo-24/10/2025 upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:-** 13-2025-SrDENCo-24/10/2025 upto 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in.** ANJ-59
अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum 5 for E-Tender Notice No. Auto_Sig_CSDR-PKD Date : 11.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Corrigendum 4, NIT Header Tender Closing date and Time Existing 30.09.2025 15:00 Modified Value as 13.10.2025 11:00 for Provision of Automatic Signalling between Channasandra-Penukonda Section of Bengaluru Divisions.	Rs. 139,40,69,610.88

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 13.10.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/530/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway · SWR SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum 5 for E-Tender Notice no. Auto_Sig_YPR-ASK Date : 08.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Corrigendum 4, NIT Header Tender Closing date and Time Existing 30.09.2025 11:00 Modified Value as 13.10.2025 11:15 for Provision of Automatic Signalling between Yesvantpur-Arasikere Section of Bengaluru and Mysuru Divisions	Rs. 160,89,45,177.79

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11:15 hrs on 13.10.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/531/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway · SWR SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Tender No. CE-RSW-25-26-02, dated 03.10.2025. e-Tender is invited by General Manager (Engg.)/S.E. Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. **Description of the Work :** Provision of 59 Nos. of subways with RCC Box (Size 2.5m x 2.5m) by Box pushing method for pedestrian/animal/2-wheelers between Railway Km. 233.880 to 515.117 (Asanboni - Jharsuguda) in Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway (2nd Call). **Tender Value :** ₹ 88,04,51,780.81. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 45,52,300/-. **Tender Document Cost:** Nil. **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 28.10.2025, 11.00 hrs. **Period of completion :** 24 (Twenty Four) months. Interested Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description of the tenders and to know the status of this tender so as to submit their bids online. Physical/manual tender for this work will not be accepted. **(PR-688)**

Moonlighting gone awry: B'lurean loses Rs 67 lakh in part-time job fraud

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Red flags to watch out

- Part-time jobs offered in Telegram and WhatsApp groups
- Offering extremely high returns or commission
- Offering money for trivial tasks like liking and reviewing
- Demand to pay money to withdraw the investments
- Direct work with no interviews or eligibility tests

A private firm employee lost a whopping Rs 67.63 lakh after his attempts at moonlighting went wrong as he fell for an online part-time job fraud. The scamsters impersonated Amazon India executives to lure the victim.

Sathish K (name changed), from western Bengaluru, fell for the scam over seven months.

The 47-year-old first came across the so-called opportunity while using Telegram on January 11, 2025. After clicking on a link, he was added to a group titled "Amazon India Part-Time benefit job".

Once he joined the group, he began receiving messages from the administrators about opportunities to make a quick buck by completing simple tasks like reviewing products and videos. However, all those were called "paid tasks" — meaning you had to pay a certain sum to unlock them and gain commission in return.

Sathish first paid Rs 1,000 and received Rs 1,650 in return — a 65% return on his investment, he was told. After a few such small payments, he was fully hooked in. Slowly, the perpetrators told him about opportunities to earn more by investing a higher sum and receiving higher returns, the FIR noted.

Between January and August, Sathish transferred Rs 67,63,950 to two SBI accounts and an HDFC account shared by the scamsters. His trouble began when he couldn't withdraw any money.

"Whenever I tried to withdraw the money, I was asked to pay more," as per the FIR.

He then approached the West Cybercrime Police, who registered the FIR last week.

Police are now gathering bank account details to trace the money.

Sources told *DH* that since the money was transferred over several months, it will be tricky to recover it.

Sharavathi project: Greens pick holes in KPCL's 'no harm' argument

Say 1L trees may be axed, slam plan to use excavated boulders

PAVAN KUMAR H
GERUSOPPA (UTTARA KANNADA DIST), DHNS

Researchers and experts have contested the claims of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) that the proposed Sharavathi pumped storage project won't have negative ecological consequences.

For instance, in the detailed project proposal (DPR), KPCL mentions that the project will require axing of 16,000 trees.

The researchers, however, point out that more than one lakh trees will be cut while widening the 12-km-long road from the main road of Gerusoppa village to the tunnel mouth near Begodi village, so that heavy earth moving machines could be moved for the project.

"KPCL, while preparing DPR, has considered only trees that have a girth of more than 30 cm. This evergreen forest land has several endemic creepers, shrubs and plants, which have not been taken into account," said Mahesh Hegde, a member of Save Sharavathi Valley campaign.

It is not just the dense forest cover along the road that faces threat from the project, but also three seasonal streams whose course could be altered. The streams don't find a mention in the official report.

Those opposing the project question KPCL's plan to utilise boulders that would be excavated while digging the 7.2-km-long tunnel.

After the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) did not give permission to set up a new stone quarry and sand mine site for the project, KPCL decided to use by-products of excavation for civil work.

One of the three seasonal streams that will be impacted due to the implementation of the Sharavathi pumped storage project. KPCL has proposed to widen this forest road from 4 metres to 9 metres to facilitate the movement of heavy machines for drilling a tunnel. DH PHOTO/PAVAN KUMAR H

"Has KPCL commissioned any scientific study to analyse the strength of these millennium-old rocks before deciding that crushed stone could be used as jelly stones and M-sand for civil work," asked wildlife researcher Girsh Jenny.

KPCL estimates that civil works for the project will cost it Rs 3,302 crore.

"The project components are changing with every passing day. The details in the published Environmental Impact Assessment report were not reflected in the official presentation at the recent public hearings," Jenny said.

KPCL officials, during the meetings, acknowledged that they hadn't done any study on rocks found in the hills.

Based on studies conducted for earlier projects, locals say the hills are rich in bauxite, iron ore and other minerals. The area falls under grade-3 seismic zone (moderate damage risk zone).

Local residents fear that the use of nearly 18,000 tonnes of industry blasting materials as mentioned in DPR could make the region landslide prone.

Environmental activist Akhilesh Chipli said, "KPCL officials are not presenting the complete picture. They have not conducted any scientific study of the region and are relying on decade-old data. There have been several new discoveries and studies revealing unique habitat of the area," he says.

Manjunath Hegde of Begodi, which would face the highest brunt of the project, said, "While KPCL officials claim that only 54 hectares of forest and 24 hectares of private land will be acquired, the muck they dump might affect even the neighbouring revenue land where multiple crops are being grown for about half a century". KPLC officials refused to comment on record.

CMN Foundation Trust presents annual award, launches tech institute

Dr V Ramgopal Rao, Group Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani (seated) received the CMN Foundation Award 2025. Standing (left to right) C N Shashikiran, Trustee, CMN Foundation Trust; Dr Vasudev K Aatre, former head of the Defence Research and Development Organisation; Chitrakala Nagaraj, Chairperson, Tirupathi Education Foundation; Prof H P Khincha, former Vice Chancellor, Visveswaraya Technological University; K N Balasubramanya Murthy, Founding Vice Chancellor, PES University.

The CMN Foundation Trust felicitated Dr V Ramgopal Rao, Group Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani, with CMN Foundation Award 2025 at a glittering event held on Monday. The award recognised the achievements of Dr Rao in the field of academics over the past few decades. Leading academicians, industry stakeholders, principals, senior faculty and students attended the event in Bengaluru.

Speaking at the event, Dr Rao highlighted the need to develop products from active research which meet the needs of society and the nation as a whole. He then answered questions from students in an interactive session.

Dr Vasudev K Aatre, former head of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, presided as chief guest and shared valuable insights.

A committee headed by Prof H P Khincha, former Vice Chancellor, Visveswaraya Technological University, chose Dr Rao for the award.

This annual award is a part of CMN Foundation Trust's endeavour to recognise leaders who have contributed significantly to the field of academics.

CMN Institute of Technology launched

The event also marked the launch of CMN Institute of Technology, an institution offering engineering and management programmes. Chitrakala Nagaraj, Chairperson, Tirupathi Education Foundation, announcing the launch, said, "The legacy and dream of C M Nagaraj to cater to education for all continues". The courses at the institute commence from the academic year 2026-27 subject to approval from all regulatory authorities.

Curated by DH Brandspot

YELLOW FLOWERS IN THE RED

People collect marigold flowers thrown away by farmers due to price crash, by the side of Kolar Road in Bangarpet on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Live streaming of Dasara events gets 1.33 crore views

GAYATHRI V RAJ
MYSURU, DHNS

The live streaming of various events organised as part of Nada Habba Mysuru Dasara - right from the inauguration atop the Chamundi Hill to the cultural programmes in front of Mysuru Palace, and Yuva Dasara at Uttanahalli - received an overwhelming response with 1.33 crore views across all platforms this year.

The objective of live streaming was to extend the reach of Mysuru Dasara, making the traditional and cultural spectacle accessible to a vast digital audience and to reinforce it as a major cultural event of India.

While thousands attend the annual events physically to soak in the Dasara spirit, others, in the country and abroad, choose to watch the events virtually, live-streamed on various tele-media channels and social media platforms.

There is a steady increase in the numbers over the years for the live streaming of the events. Last year, 97 lakh people watched it. The authorities had set a target of 1.5 crore viewership for Dasara 2025.

All arrangements were made to reach more than one crore views for the live relay of the Dasara programmes this year.

The events were telecast live on YouTube, Facebook and via https://www.mysoredasara.gov.in/ - the Dasara's official website.

As per the details available, the official website of Dasara received 35.5 lakh direct views from September 5 to October 2, and 36 lakh cumulative for live streaming.

The average viewing on the website was between 80,000 and 1.2 lakh views per day. Most of the people visited the website to view ticket sales announcements, peak event dates, live events and the schedule of the live streaming.

The attractive Jamboo Savari procession.

The peak event clusters from September 22 to October 2 received a good response through the Mysuru Dasara website, CESC and related social media handles.

Each Instagram post received 2 lakh to 4 lakh views, which shows the strong participation of netizens. In all, it has contributed more than 90 lakh views.

Yeshwanth, director, Fusion Minds Technologies, entrusted with the job, said the live streaming was given on major pages of the Government of Karnataka, like the Tourism Department, Chief Minister's page, Siddaramaiah's page, MP, MLA's pages and others.

"We have been upgrading the servers every year. It was state-of-the-art this year. More than 700 channels had taken live links from the Dasara inauguration programme to the Torchlight Parade. The advanced 'Next Zen Cloud Studio' technology was used. We have achieved 1.33 crore viewership this year, including cross-posting", Yeshwanth said.

Caste census in Bengaluru: A tale of...

Census, From Page 1

While the enumerator was busy asking questions and filling in the details in his smartphone, an enthusiastic Nagarathamma offered him juice. "People are coming to our doorstep to get our details. How can we not give details which will make our livelihoods better, will address our problems," she said.

But the survey was not all serious and dull.

Residents exploded in laughter when asked about the number of cattle, goats, sheep and poultry they owned. Following Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's recent instruction to skip questions about gold ownership, surveyors are doing so.

"I provided all the information about my household, including Aadhaar, property details and vehicles owned," said a resident of RR Nagar. "However, only my information was registered, while my family members, including my elderly father who resides with me, were excluded. This oversight has left my family out of the survey. What steps can be taken to rectify this?" "There are no options in the application for cases like mine. This is an unplanned survey."

But in neighbourhoods like Malleswaram, Basavanagudi and Padmabhanagara, enumerators are facing pushback.

Many enumerators reported having being turned away at the door, with residents refusing to share information, especially Aadhaar and property details over fears of surveillance, taxation and data misuse. "Why do they need details like the type of property we own and sites we have or vehicles we own," asked Jayaraj R, a Malleswaram resident. "What does that have to do with social welfare? I think it's a government tactic to squeeze more taxes out of us."

Sandhya Rao, a Basavanagudi resident, worried about being surveilled.

"Ten years ago, promises were made after surveys but roads stayed bad. I don't see how another data drive changes that. Do they even need my Aadhaar just to know whether I own a TV, refrigerator, cattle and poultry? Is this social-edu survey or surveillance?"

The necessity of the survey is also being questioned. Suresh Gowda, from Srirampura, asked why the government was "wasting taxpayers' money on this survey" instead of focusing on critical infrastructure issues like potholes and traffic.

The survey's operational side is also facing challenges.

Manjunath, an enumerator covering Bengaluru North, lamented the increased workload, having been assigned 264 houses to cover in 20 days, far above the promised 120-150.

He added that technical snags also slow down the process. With many enumerators uploading data simultaneously, the server slows down. The lengthy process of 90 minutes per home for data collection and uploading is compounded by software flaws, such as the requirement to fill out the questionnaire even when the ration card holder is deceased.

Man hacked to death in broad daylight in Mysuru

MYSURU, DHNS

A man was hacked to death with lethal weapons by a gang in broad daylight in the heart of Mysuru city on Tuesday.

The victim has been identified as Venkatesh alias Gilki (45), a resident of Kyathamaranahalli, in Mysuru city. He was into private finance business.

He was travelling in a car around 11.30 am near the Dasara Exhibition Grounds in front of Mysuru Palace, when his vehicle was intercepted by a gang of four or five persons, who arrived in an auto rickshaw.

On Tank Bund Road, near the Exhibition Grounds, the assailants threw chilli powder into the eyes of Venkatesh, pulled him out and attacked him. Despite being alone, he tried to defend himself. But he was attacked brutally, even as a few onlookers were stunned and shot photos and videos. The assailants fled the scene soon after.

A dog squad and forensic experts were pressed into service to gather evidence on the scene of crime. Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, DCPs R N Bindu Mani and K S Sundar Raj, Devaraja ACP Rajendra and Nazarbad Inspector Mahadevaswamy visited the spot. The Nazarbad police have registered a case.

Photos and videos of the assault and murder clicked by the onlookers went viral on social media. This might help the police to nab the assailants.

Police said old enmity may be the cause for the daylight murder. Police suspect that it is related to the murder of a history-sheeter Karthik of the same Kyathamaranahalli in May. Karthik was killed in front of a hotel, near Varuna Lake on Mysuru-T Narsipur Road on the outskirts of Mysuru city.

"Venkatesh is said to have had financial transactions with Karthik. There is also a suspicion that Venkatesh was involved in the murder plot of Karthik. The gang of youths, who supported Karthik, were closely following Venkatesh for a revenge. They would have followed Venkatesh from 9 am on Tuesday, after he left house," the police said.

SC seeks details of 3.66L excluded Bihar voters

Bihar, From Page 1

But the final figure, however, has increased by 17.87 lakh from 7.24 crore electors named in the draft list issued on August 1, which had removed 65 lakh voters from the original list on various accounts, including deaths, migration and duplication of voters.

While 21.53 lakh new electors have been added to the draft list, 3.66 lakh names have been removed, resulting in a net increase of 17.87 lakh.

Haryana IGP who flagged officers' rights found dead

Haryana, From Page 1

Kumar was earlier posted as Rohtak Range IG and had recently been transferred as IG, PTC, Sunaria.

Hailing from Andhra Pradesh, the IPS officer Kumar, who served in several Haryana districts including Ambala, Rohtak and Kurukshetra, was an engineering graduate. His retirement was due in May 2033.

Kumar is survived by his wife and two daughters, according to sources.

In recent years, the officer had been vocal about issues related to the representation of scheduled caste in police ranks.

During the parliamentary elections last year, Kumar had complained to the Haryana chief electoral officer on IAS and IPS officers holding multiple charges. He had also approached the state government alleging discriminatory and selective allotment of official vehicles to IPS officers in the state.

A few years ago he had accused a senior police officer of trying to humiliate and harass him on basis of caste. Kumar's death has left police and administrative circles in shock.

Bhima basin farmers devastated by rain, floods

Farmers, From Page 1

Agriculture Department Joint Director Samad Patel said compensation has been distributed to families of 25 farmers who ended their lives since April.

"We are counselling distressed farmers besides assuring them about early compensation and a special package from the government. We are giving them moral support by organising training programmes to prevent suicides," he added.

District in-charge Minister Priyank Kharge said tenants as well as landowners are facing problems and a humanitarian approach will help everyone. "We have to go by norms in distributing compensation. It is not a problem plaguing only Kalaburagi or Karnataka. It is also not the first time this has happened. We have to see how to overcome this," he added.

SC refuses to interfere with ED proceedings against JSW

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to quash the money laundering proceedings against JSW Steel and its officers in connection with an illegal mining scam involving Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC), owned by mining baron G Janardhana Reddy.

After noting that JSW has already approached the appellate tribunal regarding the attachment of its bank accounts, a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih stated that interference at this stage would prejudge issues that are squarely within the tribunal's domain.

The court also pointed out that it was undisputed that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not name JSW as an accused. Even the CBI chargesheet had dropped it as an accused in the supplementary report, the court said.

The top court said that the ED complaint was predicated not on any independent act of laundering but on the allegation that JSW withdrew certain sums from the attached bank accounts in violation of its orders, thus frustrating the recovery of Rs 33.80 crore, alleged to be "proceeds of crime."

It noted that the core issue before the court is not whether the JSW's entire banking operations were tainted, but whether the specific amount of Rs 33.80 crore, representing unpaid consideration for iron ore supplied by Associate Mining Company (AMC), a Reddy firm, can be treated as "proceeds of crime" and whether its withdrawal post attachment constitutes an offence.

In 2009, JSW entered into an agreement with Reddy's OMC for the supply of iron ore for which it paid advance payments of about Rs 130 crore. As OMC failed to supply iron ore after March 2010 despite assurances, JSW sought adjustments of the remaining amount from the advance paid.

Meanwhile, the court had directed an investigation into the matter of illegal mining by AMC, a partnership firm of Reddy.

Owing to the non-supply of the iron ore, the arbitrator in May 2014 directed the refund of the principal outstanding balance of Rs 35.44 crore to JSW.

The ED attached the company's bank accounts in 2015 pursuant to registering a money laundering case against Reddy. In 2022, the ED filed a prosecution complaint against JSW for having operated its bank accounts, while they were attached by the agency.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and many places over Coastal Karnataka
Forecast Oct 08: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	27.4	20.6	00
Bidar	28.2	21	00
Vijayapura	29.5	19.6	00
Dharwad	30.2	NA	00
Haveri	30.2	20.6	00
Kalaburagi	29.7	21.8	00
Raichur	30	21	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31	24.3	00
Karwar	32.8	23.2	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.1	22.4	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	28.1	17.4	00
Bengaluru	28	19.8	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30.6	18.6	00
Davangere	30	19.5	00
Hassan	28.5	NA	00
Mysuru	32	23.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	30.4	18.2	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	26.5	21	13
Kolkata	30.6	25.6	00
Mumbai	31.7	23.9	0.1
Chennai	34.1	25.4	01
Pune	30.4	20.6	00
Hyderabad	31.8	24	0.5
Th'puram	34.4	25.2	00

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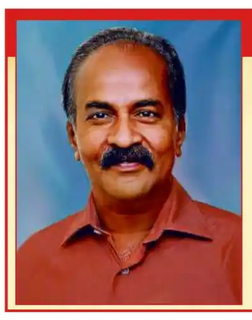
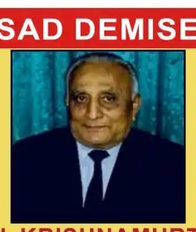
3rd Death Anniversary



H.M Anand Reddy
— 19-06-1951 - 08-10-2022 —
We Remember you at all times, your thoughts and directions are our inspiration.
Deeply Missed & Remembered by :
Smt Lakshmi Anand Reddy & Family
& Entire CLE (HMR) Staff.

SAD DEMISE

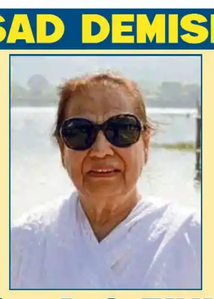


B.N. KRISHNAMURTHY
(18-10-1932)Bsc, BE , MSc
Retired Principal GBDT College of Engineering Davanagere
Former Director of Technical Education, Bengaluru.
Cremation at Harishchandra Ghat on 8-10-2025 between 11 am to 12 Noon. Deeply Mourned by Family & Friends.

30th day remembrance
In Loving Memory of

30/8/1948 - 08/09/2025
Dr. Nethaji S Ganesan
BE, ME, PHD(IISC), MBA(Finance)
Former Executive Director KSFC
Former Principal of Atria College
Former Principal Dayanand Sagar College of Engineering
Founder Sri Valampuri Vinayaka Temple
Managing Partner Renuka Devi Mandira
With love and respect
Mrs. PS Renuka Devi (BSc, BEd) Wife
Ganapathy Nethaji, Poojitha, Nila and Driti
Balasubramaniam Nethaji, Spoorti and Vaibhav Karthikeyan
Relatives and friends
Staff and devotees of Valampuri Vinayaka temple

SAD DEMISE



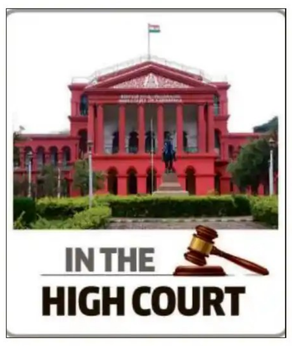
Mrs. D. S. TAYAB
Beloved wife of Late M. A. K. Tayab, IAS, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on 6th October 2025, in Bangalore.
Insha Allah, gathering 7 a.m onwards. Namaz-e-Janaaza will be held at Zuhr on Wednesday, 8th October 2025 at the Hajee Sir Ismail Sait Masjid and Tadfeen will be done thereafter at Tannery Road Khaberistan.
Deeply mourned and fondly remembered by the families of her children Farooq Tayab and Tabassum Tayab and her siblings, friends, and all near and dear ones.
Address: #61, 3rd Cross, 16C Main, Koramangala 4th Block, Bengaluru – 560034.
Contact:
Farooq +1 (972) 742-5229

SAD DEMISE

VILASINI NAGESH
DOB: 03-03-1934 - DOD: 07-10-2025
Founder and Former President, Mahila Co-operative Bank Limited.
Former President, Karnataka Women's Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society.
Advisor, Bharathiya Grameena Mahila Sangha.
Former President, Association for Social Health in India (Abhaya Ashrama).
Patron, All India Women's Conference (Bangalore Branch).
Member, Lions Club of Bangalore, JP Nagar.
With deep sorrow we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved Mother Vilasini Nagesh on 7th October 2025. The final rituals will be held at the Kengeri Crematorium on 8th October 2025 at 02:30pm.
Mourned By
Son's Prakash N, Pradeep, Daughter Prathiba N
Grandchildren, Family & Friends
Mob: 9886034747, 9741110011

High Court declines fee refund plea by NRI quota student

BENGALURU, DHNS



The high court has refused to direct Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research in Kolar to refund Rs 27 lakh to an NRI quota student admitted to the MBBS course in 2017.

A division bench, comprising Justices D K Singh and Venkatesh Naik T, said that the petitioner had failed to demonstrate any provision in the prospectus or the MCI Examination Admission Rules that would entitle him to a refund of the fees after admission and fee deposit, followed by a request to cancel his admission

The petitioner, Ajay Jayakumar Nair, was admitted to the MBBS programme at Sri Devaraj Urs Academy, deemed university, under the NRI quota through the NEET-UG-2017 entrance examination. The petitioner said that his mother lost her job in Saudi Arabia and, hence, he was not in a position to pay the fee for further studies. On August 30, 2017, he submitted a letter to the institution requesting cancellation of the admission and a refund of Rs 27 lakh fee paid by him.

According to the petitioner, the institution will not suffer any loss by cancelling his admission as it had taken admission against the vacant seat caused as a result of the cancellation.

On the other hand, the institution claimed that being a deemed university, the seats in the medical course are allotted by the Medical Council of India (MCI) under 15% of All India Quota and that it cannot admit the students on its own.

The institution further submitted that it should have claimed damages from the petitioner as one seat of the NRI quota in the MBBS course had remained vacant for four and a half years.

The division bench noted that in cases seeking a refund of fees following the cancellation of admission, the high court had earlier ruled that once a candidate is admitted to a professional course after counselling, they are not entitled to a refund if they seek to cancel their admission.

"In the absence of any provision for a refund of fees and when there is no evidence to suggest that the institution admitted any other student against the vacant seat caused by the petitioner's cancellation of admission, we are of the view that no such mandamus can be issued to the respondent institution to refund the fee," the bench said.

The bench, however, granted the liberty to approach the Karnataka Fee Regulatory Committee for his grievance.

The court said that the committee should examine the case independently and in accordance with the law, without being influenced by the observations in the order.

KSPCB orders closure of 'Big Boss' venue

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has ordered closure of a private amusement park hosting popular Kannada show 'Big Boss' for failing to comply with the environment rules despite issuance of notices over a year ago.

In March 2024, the Regional Officer (RO) of Ramanagar found several shortcomings during the inspection of Vels Studios and Entertainment Pvt Ltd (Ms Jolly Wood Studios and Adventures) located in Bidadi Industrial Area, Bengaluru South (Ramanagara) district.

Among the observations made by the officer were the establishment and operation of a studio "without obtaining prior consent from the Board". Secondly, the wastewater generated from different domains of the amusement park was being discharged outside the premises without any treatment. While a sewage treatment plant (STP) of 250 kld was provided, there was no inflow of sewage to the plant and "all the STP units installed were empty and not commissioned."

The officer had made other observations, including the installation of diesel generator sets and non-segregation of waste. A notice was issued to the company in April 2024 to take corrective measures. The unit was again inspected by the RO-Ramanagar in June 2024, but found that the amusement park had not complied with the notice.

Following a meeting of the state-level enforcement committee on September 16, the amusement park was directed to shutdown operation until further orders. "The deputy commissioner, Ramanagar (Bengaluru South) district, to seize the unit forthwith until further orders," it said, adding instructions to other authorities.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said the step was inevitable. "The studio hosting Big Boss was given two notices for operating without any permission but failed to comply with the rules. Action has been initiated as per the law," he stated.

Mistakes in deemed forest list continue to haunt govt

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government continues to grapple with confusion over the classification of 'Deemed Forest' land, even as it recently assured the Centre that it would remove "undesirable" land parcels from the list.

The issue resurfaced during a proposal by MSPL Limited, which had sought forest clearance to begin mining operations in Ramanadurga village of Sandur, Ballari.

The company had won the rights to an erstwhile 'C' category mine and offered 74.35 acres of land in Belagavi as compensatory afforestation (CA) to make up for forest land diverted for mining.

However, the proposed Belagavi land was already marked as 'Deemed Forest' — raising red flags, as afforestation cannot be carried out on land already classified as forest.

Adding to the confusion, the Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi district and the Deputy Conservator of Forests clarified that the land in question was privately owned and had been wrongly included in the deemed forest list. They urged the immediate removal of these land parcels from the list.

Responding to the issue, the Karnataka government informed the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change that it has begun the process of reviewing and removing ineligible or misclassified lands from the 'Deemed Forest' list.

Following detailed discussions, the FAC decided to defer the clearance for the project, directing the state government to identify and offer an equal extent of non-forest land for CA purposes.

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KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY BOARD ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (R.)
ಕವಿಮಂ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರುಗಳ ಸಂಘವು ತನ್ನ 57ನೇ ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10ನೇ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 2025ರಂದು, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಂಘದ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ ಭವನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್ ಪೀಣ್ಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.
57ನೇ KEBEA ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆಯ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಮತ್ತು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅಂಚೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಮಹಾಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ವ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡು ಸಂಘದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಲಹೆ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿ.
ಶ್ರೀ. ಶಿವಣ್ಣ.ಕೆ, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೆಇಬಿಇಎ

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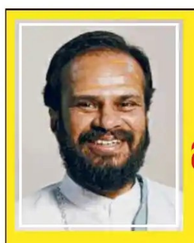

Upasana
ಮನೋಶಕ್ತಿ
–ಯಾಮತಿಸ್ಸಾ ಗತಿರ್ಭವೇತ್ ।
- ಸಂಕಲ್ಪದ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಕ್ರಮ?
ಮನೋಶಕ್ತಿಯ ರಹಸ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳ ಅರಿವು.
- ಮನೋ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಹೇಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ !
ಮನೋಶಕ್ತಿ ಬಳಸಿ ಯಶಸ್ಸು ಗಳಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ?
- ಸುಪ್ತವಾಗಿರುವ ಮನೋಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಗೊಳಿಸಬಹುದು !
- ಶ್ವಾಸ ಕ್ರಿಯೆ, ವಿಶ್ವಾಕರ್ಷಣ ಧ್ಯಾನವಿಧಿ, ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಸಿದ್ಧಿ ಧ್ಯಾನವಿಧಿ, ಮುದ್ರಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ.....
ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 12 ಭಾನುವಾರ, 2025
ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 9:00 ರಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ರವರೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ : ಸರ್ ಪುಟ್ಟಣ್ಣ ಚೆಟ್ಟಿ ಟೌನ್ ಹಾಲ್, ಜೆ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ : 9945136677 / 9945137766
ನೊಂದಣಿಗಾಗಿ :
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, APPALARAJU SREE SAILA KUMARI, R/at No. 10-4-100/19/A/18, Santhosh Nagar Colony, Universal School Area Yenugonda Mahbubnagar Telangana- 509001 have changed my name to KOTALAGIDDA SRISAILA KUMARI vide affidavit dated: 7/10/2025 Before Notary D.P.Jyothi Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRENIK LALI,** residing at # 575/A, 3rd Block, Sir M.V.Vishveshwaraiah Layout, Mallathahalli, PO Ullalu Upanagara, Bengaluru- 560056, have changed my name to **SHRENIK MANOHAR LALI** vide affidavit dated 17-09-2025 before notary T.C.Thimmaraja, Bengaluru.
Henceforth I shall be called as **SHRENIK MANOHAR LALI** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Namrata Ishwar Avadhani @ Namrata Avadhani** D/o Ishwar Avadhani, residing at No. 29, 'Anugraha' 2nd Cross, Ittamadu Layout, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru-560085. declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **NAMRATA ISHWAR AVADHANI** vide affidavit dated 06.10.2025 before notary R. Ramesh, Bengaluru.

I, JASPAL SINGH BALKAR SINGH, residing at Bengaluru-43 have changed my name as JASPAL SINGH, vide affidavit dated 06/10/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

JOB
To Place your Classified Ads Contact:
9886213331

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **VIDYA S**, Residing at # 145, 4th Main Road, Govindaraja Nagar, Bengaluru - 560040, have lost my **Original Sale Deed, Site No. 21, Doddabidarakallu, Document No./ Identification: Document-11 1st Book page 9138, North Register office.** While transit. If found please contact: **9900161058**

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Speeding bus mows down 4 devotees on padayatra

KOPPAL, DHNS

Four devotees who were on a 'padayatra' (Journey by Foot), to the Huligemmadevi temple in Koppal district, were killed in two separate incidents, involving a private bus and a motorcycle, on Monday night.

Three people were killed on the spot after a private bus ran over them near Kukkanpalli village on National Highway 50.

The deceased were identified as Annapurna (40), Prakash (25), and Sharanappa (19) from Tallihala village in Gadag district. The impact was such that the body parts of the deceased were scattered all over the road.

Four other pilgrims sustained injuries and are being treated at district hospital.

Senior police officials visited the spot and have registered an FIR against the bus driver, who has been arrested.

In another incident, a 28-year-old devotee was killed after a bike hit him from behind near Bhanapur in Kukkanur taluk.

The deceased was identified as Veeresha Hallikeri, a resident of Kukkanur. Nine others, including the bike rider, sustained injuries. The rider is being treated at taluk hospital.

Hundreds of devotees walk to the holy shrine every full moon day.

As Tuesday was Sheegi-hunnime (considered an auspicious full moon day), the number of devotees visiting the temple had almost doubled.

Six members of a family washed away in canal

KUNIGAL (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: Six of a family were washed away in the canal of Markonahalli reservoir in Kunigal taluk of Tumakuru district on Tuesday.

The bodies of Sadia (28) and Harbin (20) have been traced. Search is on for Sadia's mother Tabassum (46), her daughter Nipra (4), aunt Shabana (44) and Mohib (1).

The police and personnel from Fire and Emergency Services conducted search operation till evening. The search was suspended as darkness fell and it will resume on Wednesday morning.

The family members of Tabassum from BG Palya had been to her daughter's house at Magadipalya.

10 entered water

After meals, they went to the canal in the backwaters of the dam and around 10 people ventured into the gushing water.

While six of them were washed away, three survived miraculously. They have been hospitalised.

Avenues

Government of Karnataka

KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY

Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 012.
Website: https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/
e-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in

No. ED/KEA/ADMN/CR- 04 /2025 (RPC) **Date: 08-10-2025**
No. ED/KEA/ADMN/CR- 05 /2025 (Kalyana Karnataka) **Date: 08-10-2025**

NOTIFCATION

Karnataka Examinations Authority has invited applications online for direct recruitment of various posts in the Residual Parent Cadre and the Kalyana Karnataka cadre in the following Government Departments / Boards / Corporations. Eligible applicants should apply online and appear for the Competitive Examination conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority to become eligible for the recruitment to the said posts.

Sl. No.	Department / Board / Institution	Number of different posts	
		RPC	Kalyana Karnatka
1.	Bangalore Development Authority	18	07
2.	Karnataka Soaps and Detergent Limited	07	14
3.	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences	40	04
4.	Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation	63	253
5.	North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation	19	-
6.	Department of Agricultural Marketing	180	-
7.	Department of Technical Education	50	43
8.	Department of School Education (Pre-University)	10	-
	Total	**387**	**321**

- **Online application is available from 09-10-2025 to 01-11-2025.**
- Instructions for applying online, details of eligibility, age limit, educational qualification, mode of application, fees, competitive examination subjects, category-wise and post-wise vacancy details and detailed instructions about the recruitment process etc, applicants are hereby advised to visit the KEA Website **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/**
- **Competitive Examination;**
  a) It is an OMR based examination, and there are 05 circles will be provided in the OMR for each question, and the first 04 circle is related to shade the one correct answer. If the candidate does not know the answer to any question/questions, it is mandatory to shade the 05th circle. Otherwise, 1/4 marks will be deducted.
  b) There is a negative evaluation and one-fourth (¼) marks will be deducted for each wrong answer.
  c) The examination schedule will be published on the KEA Website.
  d) A single examination will be conducted for posts in different departments with the same syllabus and a merit list will be handed over to the concerned departments.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority is responsible ONLY for inviting applications, conducting Competitive Examinations and handing over the merit list of the candidates to the concerned recruitment authorities. It is the responsibility of the concerned recruitment authority to verify the documents as per the information given by the candidates while applying and issue the appointment order as per the rules.

Information regarding the recruitment process will not be sent to the candidates personally, candidates are advised to keep visiting the KEA Website **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/** frequently.

Sd/-
(H. Prasanna, IAS)
Executive Director.

DIPR/CP/3128/2025-26

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Sl. No	Post/ Grade	Upper age limit as on 01.10.2025	No of Posts	Minimum Experience as on 01.10.2025
1.	Senior Assistant Engineer-(E-1) (Fixed tenure basis for 5 years) for Mil.Com. SBU.	50 Years	9	Minimum 15 Years of relevant post qualification Experience for Ex-Servicemen in the rank of JCO or equivalent from Defense Forces.

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For more details please visit our website **www.bel-india.in**

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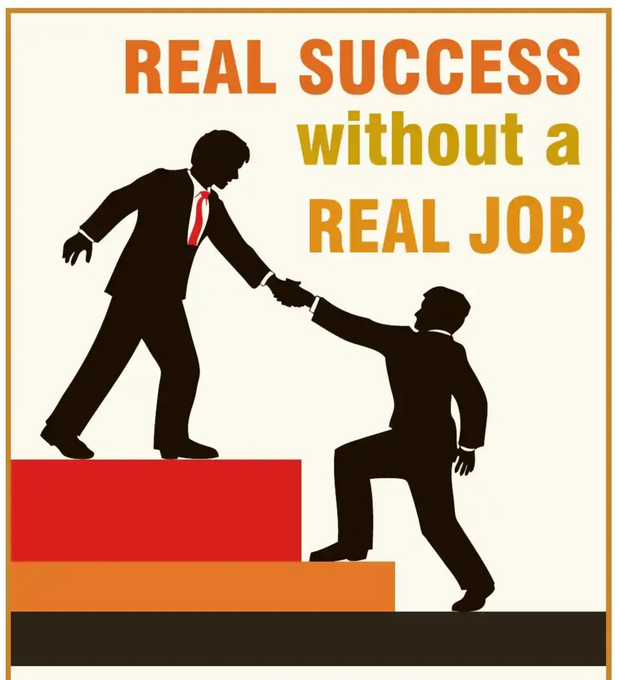

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Managed by : DAV College Managing Committee, Chitragupta Road, New Delhi-110055

STAFF RECRUITMENT : 2026-27 - KARNATAKA

D.A.V. Institutions, S.A.Zone- A, invite ONLINE APPLICATIONS for DAV Recruitment Test (DAV CBT January 2026) from 08.10.25 to 31.10.25 for Various Teaching / Non-Teaching / Ministerial Posts mentioned below :

001 - DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL (CBSE) ACC, Wadi-585225, Dist. Kalaburagi, Karnataka. **Email :dav_wadi@yahoo.in, Website: davaccwadi.in**
Teaching Staff : NTT ; Primary Teacher - English, Kannada, Science, Social Science, Computers, PET,
ART & Music ; TGT - English & Mathematics ; Counselor ; Librarian
Ministerial Staff : LDC (Administration)

002 –TMAES DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL (CBSE) Sanklapur, Kariganur post, Hospet- 583201, Dist. Vijayanagara, Karnataka. **Email :davtm9@rediffmail.com, Website: www.tmaesdav.com**
Teaching Staff : NTT ; Primary Teacher - English, Hindi, Kannada, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Computer, Sanskrit,
ART & Music & Counselor ; TGT - English, Science & Social Science
Ministerial Staff : LDC (Administration)

003 - KPCL DAV High School (STATE) RTPS Colony, Shakthinagar - 584170, Dist. Raichur, Karnataka. **Email :kpcldav2010@hotmail.com Website: www.kpcldav.in**
Teaching Staff : NTT ; Primary Teacher - English, Hindi, Kannada, Science, Social Science ;
TGT - English, Mathematics, Science & Social Science

004 - VICAT DAV VIDYA MANDIR (CBSE) Chatrasala-585320, Chincholli Tehsil, Dist. Kalaburagi, Karnataka. **Email :vicatdavvidyamandir@gmail.com, Website: www.vicatdav.com**
Teaching Staff : NTT ; Primary Teacher - Hindi, ART, Computer ; TGT - English& Science
Ministerial Staff : LDC (Administration)

005 - DAV ORIENT GYAN MANDIR (CBSE) Diggaon-585211, Chittapur, Dist. Kalaburagi, Karnataka. **Email :dav.chittapur@gmail.com, Website: www.davorient.org**
Teaching Staff : NTT ; Primary Teacher - Social Science; TGT - Science

NURSERY OR PRE-PRIMARY TEACHER QUALIFICATION: - Graduation with Valid NTT (2 Years) Recognized by NCTE / D.El.Ed (2 Years) / B.El.Ed (4 Years) / JBT (2 Years).
PRT/TGT QUALIFICATION :– Graduation / Post Graduation, B. Ed & Qualified in State / Central Teacher Eligibility Test.
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IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS :
➢ This is a Common Advertisement for all the 5 Schools and you will be placed depending upon the availability of vacancy in a particular School. ➢ Candidates can apply for 1 Post only using their Own Registered Mobile Number (RMN). For the centralized, ONLINE CBT Registration Form, visit the DAV Recruitment Website https://davrecruit.davcmc.in/. ➢ Form submission can be done by following three steps : ➢ **Step 1 :** All eligible candidates are required to login and fill the Online CBT Form before 31st October 2025 and 'Submit for Verification'. (This is Partial Submission only) ➢ **Step 2 :** Take a printout of the form. Carry it to nearest of the above 5 D.A.V. Schools, which are verification centres. Please carry your Original Documents / Certificates along with Self Attested Testimonials for verification from 1st November to 20th November 2025 on all Working days between 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Mandatory for Final Approval & Submission) ➢ **Step 3 :** After Final Approval & Submission, Online CBT Exam Fee is to be submitted within 7 days of approval and submission by logging in to https://davrecruit.davcmc.in/ only. ➢ **DAV – CBT** (Computer Based Test) will be conducted for Eligible candidates at different DAV Schools in January 2026. Updates regarding Centre-Selection, Admit Card etc., will be updated on DAV Recruitment Website: https://davrecruit.davcmc.in/ from time to time. Those who qualify in DAV-CBT shall be issued a Provisional Eligibility Card (P.E.C.). ➢ **P.E.C.** Candidates can apply at any D.A.V. School across the country for a Demo-Interview (Final) Round, which will be advertised in the newspapers. ➢ **FINAL SELECTION** : will be made on the basis of Demo-Interview at School Level / Zonal Level. ➢ To apply and know more about the DAV Recruitment Process, please visit **https://davrecruit.davcmc.in/**

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- **Site Supervisor/Foreman - Shuttering/Steel:** HSC/Graduate/ITI with 10-15 years of experience in RCC Buildings/Industrial Construction of Formwork, Shuttering and Steel.
- **Site Supervisor/Foreman - Civil/Finishing:** HSC/Graduate/ITI-with 10-14 years of experience in Finishing/RCC Buildings/Industrial construction in their respective fields.
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- **Executive/Officer - Store (Project):** Graduate with 5-12 years of experience in the construction industry.
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1	**Principal: Location:** RVK - Hurulichikkanahalli, Hulimangala, Thanisandra in Bengaluru & Haveri, **Eligibility:** Postgraduate with B.Ed., 10+ years of teaching, and 5+ years as Principal in a CBSE school are preferred.
2	**Administrator: Location:** RVK Banashankari - Bengaluru, Haveri, **Eligibility:** B. Com/BBM/BBA/MBA/M. Com with 5+ years' experience in school administration and strong operational skills
3	**PGT: Location:** RVK Udupi, Dharwad & Davangere, **Eligibility:** Physics, Chemistry, Math, Biology, Computer Science Postgraduate in relevant subject with B.Ed., Preference to experienced faculty who can train students for KCET / COMED-K / IIT-JEE / NEET)
4	**TGT:** English, Kannada, Hindi, Sanskrit, Math, Science, Social Science, Computer Science **Eligibility:** Postgraduate/Graduate in relevant subject with B.Ed.
5	**PRT:** English, Kannada, Hindi, Sanskrit, Math, Science, Social Science, Computer Science **Eligibility:** Graduate in relevant subject with B.Ed./D.Ed.
6	**PPT:** Kindergarten / Montessori Teachers – NTT / Montessori Diploma
7	**PET:** M.P.Ed./B.P.Ed. - Ladies are preferred
8	**Performing Arts:** Karate, Dance, Yoga, Vocal Music, Tabla, Keyboard – Relevant Certificate with experience
9	**Visual Art:** B.F.A./B.V.A.
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13	**Counsellor:** M.Sc. in Child & Adult Psychology
14	**Special Educator:** Certificate from Rehabilitation Council of India
15	**Wellness Staff (Staff Nurse):** Diploma in Nursing
16	**Accountant:** B. Com/M. Com with relevant experience in accounting and financial management.
17	**Public Relations Officer (PRO):** Graduate with excellent communication skills; prior PR/liaison experience preferred.

Remuneration will not be a constraint for deserving candidates Immediate joiners will be given preference.

Apply to the respective school email IDs:

SN	School & Location	Email ID	SN	School & Location	Email ID
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2	JGRVK Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru	hr.rmnbng@rvkcbse.in	12	RVK Sattur	hr.strdwd@rvkcbse.in
			13	RVK Kalburgi	hr.klbg@rvkcbse.in
3	RVK Banashankari, Bengaluru	hr.bskbng@rvkcbse.in	14	RVK Mangalore	hr.mang@rvkcbse.in
			15	RVK Kerur	hr.kerurbgkt@rvkcbse.in
4	RVK Somanahalli, Bengaluru	hr.sombng@rvkcbse.in	16	RVK Ballari	hr.blri@rvkcbse.in
			17	RVK Hangal	hr.hangalhvr@rvkcbse.in
5	RVK Hurulichikkanahalli, Bengaluru	hr.hurulibng@rvkcbse.in	18	RVK Hassan	hr.hassan@rvkcbse.in
			19	RVK Udupi	hr.udupi@rvkcbse.in
6	RVK Hulimangala, Bengaluru	hr.ecitybng@rvkcbse.in	20	RVK Haveri	hr.haveri@rvkcbse.in
7	RVK Dharwad	hr.dwd@rvkcbse.in			
8	RVK Davangere	hr.dvg@rvkcbse.in			
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Billed as respite from ink, paper used to print bills raises health concerns

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Study flags toxic effect of chemicals used in manufacturing thermal paper.

Thermal paper, which has become ubiquitous in billing and ticketing, is exposing crores of people and animals to toxic chemicals with a new study calling for increased scrutiny and regulation of chemicals used in such papers.

Thermal paper is a specialised material, mostly sold as paper rolls which are coated with chemicals that change colour when exposed to heat.

It was hailed as a solution, considering that it eliminate the need for ink while printing.

As a result, they have been adopted widely from bus tickets to point of sales machines and even in medical facilities.

The study was conducted by three high school students - R Usha, Aniketh V Bhat and R Nalini - guided by Athavan Anand, principal investigator, Prayoga Institute of Education Research and Asha C H, co-principal investigator.

The study's pre-print version has been made available on bioRxiv, a popular site for biology research papers.

The researchers bought two rolls of thermal paper from a shop and took 5 gm each of evenly cut small pieces. Chemical was extracted from the small pieces and the same were subjected to absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) properties prediction using Swiss-ADME portal to understand their behaviour in biological systems and evaluating their toxicity.

High-resolution mass spectrometry analysis established that the thermal bill paper contained Bisphenol S (BPS) and Diphenyl Sulfone (DPS).

"We conducted in-silico analysis using software tools and models (including BOILED-Egg model) to find that both BPS and DPS possess properties within the optimal range for absorption and bioavailability. BPS is likely to be absorbed by the gastrointestinal tract, while DPS could potentially cross the blood-brain barrier," Anand said.

While Bisphenol A (BPA) has been banned, Bisphenol S or BPS that was introduced as an alternative, is now having similar toxicity to BPA. Specifically, BPS is suspected to have endocrine-disrupting properties. DPS has been flagged as a skin and respiratory irritant and can cause serious health issues if ingested.

The researchers conducted toxicity tests on Daphnia pulex, known as common water fleas, belonging to the aquatic group Crustacea (crab, shrimp, etc). "The heart of Daphnia pulex serves as a valuable biomarker for assessing cardiotoxic effects of chemical exposure," it said.

Findings of the tests showed that the heartbeat of the flea exposed to 0.5 mg/litre of the toxic chemicals reduced from 468 to 198 beats within 78 hours.

"As time progressed, the heart rates in all groups exposed to the chemical steadily declined," it said, adding that those exposed to 5 mg/litre showed rapid decline in beats within the first six hours.

Anand noted that BPS has been found in blood and urine samples of cashiers in studies conducted in China and the USA. "There is a need for increased awareness and regulation. Quick action will help reduce the damage," he added.

Don't snatch food from our plate: Ugrappa to CM on ST tag for Kurubas

'Power not permanent, one day you will be former CM'

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Congress leader Ugrappa on Tuesday warned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about the proposed inclusion of the Kuruba community in the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST), saying: "You can dine with us, but don't snatch food from our plates".

"Let Kurubas come, Gollas come, Besthas come. While coming, get your plates and rice. You can sit with us and eat. But if you put your hands in our plates, I will stand with the people and fight as their voice. I am ready for that, this is my warning".

Ugrappa's tirade came during the Valmiki Jayanti programme attended by the CM, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi and other Congress leaders. Siddaramaiah is the leading Kuruba leader in the state.

His comments come at a time when there has been apprehension in the Nayaka community that the inclusion of Kuruba community in ST list will reduce their share in the 7% reservation provided to STs in Karnataka.

Ugrappa explained that Article 341 of the Constitution mandated an anthropological study to determine tribal characteristics if a community has to be added to the ST list.

"If they have tribal characteristics and are socially and educationally backward, they can be recommended not once, but 10 times".

Recollecting that both Kurubas and Nayakas had unsuccessfully tried for the ST tag twice, Ugrappa said, "Later Kurubas went into sleep mode. In 1991, when Chandrashekhar was the prime minister, myself and H D Deve Gowda wrote to him about the tribal characteristics of Nayakas and the community was added to the ST list".

In another warning to the CM, he said, "Power is not permanent, Siddaramaiah. One day you will become a former (CM). Just how Devaraj Urs, Indira Gandhi have contributed, you should also identify people in all classes who will carry forward your legacy".

I didn't recommend tag for Kurubas, it was BJP: CM

Responding to Ugrappa, Siddaramaiah said, "We will not put our hands on your plate. I wasn't the one who fought for providing ST tag to Kurubas. It was K S Eshwarappa. At that time, Basavaraj Bommai was CM in BJP government. Now, it has just come up for clarification".

The CM said the reservation for STs was higher in states like Odisha, Mizoram and Nagaland in accordance with population.

"They didn't do it then (union government didn't add Kurubas to ST list) and even now, there's no guarantee they will do it. But if they do it, let it be as per population. It (quota for STs) should be increased from 7% to 14 or 15 or 20%," Siddaramaiah added.

CM: Will urge Centre to name Metro after Valmiki

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Tuesday that he would recommend to the union government to name the Bengaluru metro after Valmiki.

"I cannot do it myself. Both the Centre and the state are running the metro. I will recommend it. The Centre has to agree. We need to see what happens," Siddaramaiah said, speaking at the Valmiki Jayanti event.

The chief minister promised that Congress leader V S Ugrappa's suggestion of including Valmiki and Ramayana in textbooks would be considered. Noting that two acres of land had been granted to build Valmiki Bhavan/Soudha, he said the necessary funds for the project would be announced in next year's Budget.

IN REVERENCE TO MOTHER EARTH

A farmer's family performs puja to mother earth on the occasion of 'Seege Hunnime' at Ghalapoji village of Haveri district on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Govt extends socio-edu survey till October 18

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following the delayed start of the social and educational survey in Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits and lukewarm response in a couple of districts, the government decided on Tuesday to extend the exercise till October 18.

Siddaramaiah told a news conference that the progress of the survey was uneven in the state (97% in Koppal, 63% in Dakshina Kannada).

"MLC Puttanna and the teachers' association requested extension by 10 days. Accordingly, we have declared holidays for government and aided schools till October 18. Holidays have been announced for 8 working days," he said.

The survey across the state (except GBA) began on September 22 and was scheduled to end on October 7. The exercise began in GBA limits on October 4.

According to data from the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, there are 7.65 lakh households in Bengaluru Urban, which includes GBA limits.

Survey of 2.78 lakh households was completed in Bengaluru by Tuesday afternoon.

On till Oct 20 in B'luru

"In Bengaluru, we have directed them to complete the exercise by Naraka Chaturdashi (October 20). Teachers have also given confidence on finishing by then," Siddaramaiah said.

Noting that three teachers had died during the survey, the chief minister said their families would get a compensation of Rs 20 lakh each.

"Due to II PU mid-term exams from October 12, PU college lecturers will be exempt from survey duty," the CM said.

He said action would be taken against those who do not participate in the survey.

Highest enumeration in Koppal, least in B'luru Urban

After 16 days, Koppal district saw the highest enumeration at 97% (3.15 lakh out of 3.26 lakh households). It was followed by Haveri 97% (4.04 lakh out of 4.18 lakh) and Chamarajanagar 95% (2.44 lakh out of 2.56 lakh households).

Bengaluru Rural at 66% (2.53 lakh out of 3.83 lakh households), Dakshina Kannada at 63% (3.81 lakh out of 6.02 lakh), Udupi at 60% (2.17 lakh out of 3.62 lakh) and Bengaluru Urban at 36% (2.78 lakh out of 7.65 lakh households) lagged behind.

KSHRC seeks report on 'fake' officials accompanying Mattennanavar

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission has registered a suo motu case following the allegations that activist Girish Mattennanavar was accompanied by "anti-social" elements impersonating as human rights officials, during latter's visit to Belthangady police station.

"KSHRC has registered a suo motu case under Section 12 of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and has sought a report," Superintendent of Police Dr Arun K confirmed when contacted on Tuesday. One among the two men who had impersonated as KSHRC official was identified as Hubballi-based rowdy sheeter Madan Bugudi.

A complaint in this regard was lodged by one Praveen K R, a resident of Dharmasthala. Praveen alleged that that while watching YouTube, he had come across a video clip of activist Girish Mattennanavar addressing mediapersons.

"In the video clip, Girish misleads the public and introduced Madan Bugudi, standing next to him, as an official from the KSHRC. Madan was also present during the 'rowdy parade' organised recently in Hubballi by commissioner of police," Praveen stated in his complaint. Based on the complaint, Belthangady police have registered a case under Section 204 (impersonating a public servant), 319(2) (punishment up to five years of imprisonment for impersonation), 353(2) (publishing false statement through electronic means) and 3(5)(common intent) of BNS.

BJP, Jan Suraaj outrace Cong at mobilising Biharis in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP and political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj are actively reaching out to non-resident Biharis in Bengaluru, a city where lakhs of workers from Bihar are earning a livelihood.

The Congress has not yet taken up any such campaign to mobilise Biharis in the state, a senior leader said.

Bihar will vote in two phases on November 6 and 11. The counting of votes will be on November 14.

The BJP's Vividha Bhashika Prakoshta (VBP), which deals with people from other states living in Karnataka, started its election outreach in March when the Bihar Diwas was celebrated. "There are an estimated five lakh Biharis in and around Bengaluru," VBP state co-convenor Sunny Raj said.

"On Sunday, we had an event in Byatarayanapura where (BJP MP) Manoj Tiwari, Bihar state secretary Ratnesh Kushwaha and other party leaders addressed 8,000-10,000 Biharis," he added.

Raj also said that Biharis willing to engage in election-related work in that state will be sent from Bengaluru.

Earlier this week, Jan Suraaj's Bihar president Manoj Bharti was in the city to address a Bihari congregation.

"We started reaching out to people from Bihar living in Bengaluru in April. So far, we have reached out to 20,000 Biharis. This includes meeting people on the Sanghamitra Express and Gorakhpur Express," Dr Nischith K R, Jan Suraaj Bengaluru coordinator, said.

"Around eight lakh Biharis in Bengaluru are labourers," Nischith, 34, who has a postgraduate degree in community medicine, said. "There are 4,000 Biharis in the Peenya Industrial Area alone."

Jan Suraaj's Bengaluru chapter has created over a dozen WhatsApp groups comprising 4,500 Biharis. "The party has 120 people working on the ground in Bengaluru," Nischith said.

According to Government Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, the Congress will contact Biharis going forward. "We'll be contacting Biharis to seek their support. There are Bihari students and employees," the senior Congress MLC said.

While parties claim that lakhs of Biharis work in Karnataka, the labour department here has information on 22,374 employees or labourers from that state.

Siddaramaiah hints at Cabinet reshuffle

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday hinted at a Cabinet reshuffle. He was reacting to demands that ST lawmakers must be made ministers.

"In the coming days, during the Cabinet reshuffle, we will do it," Siddaramaiah said.

Two ST lawmakers - B Nagendra and K N Rajanna - had to exit the Cabinet. The ST community has demanded that their positions must be filled up. There is speculation that Siddaramaiah's Cabinet will be rejigged after November 20, when the Congress completes two and a half years in office.

Mandya lit fest funds: KSP to seek Lokayukta probe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The executive committee of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) has unanimously decided to seek a Lokayukta investigation into funds that were provided for the conduct of the 87th All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Mandya last year.

In a statement, the KSP said that Rs 30 crore was released to the Mandya district administration. Of this, only Rs 2.5 crore was given to KSP. The remaining funds were utilised by the district administration.

"There are allegations that money was misused for procurement of materials, food, housing, stage and so on, all of which come under the purview of the district administration. Despite knowing this, people with vested interests are hurling allegations at the KSP," it said.

Transparent

The KSP maintained that its finances were transparent. "An audit will be carried out by the state accounts department," it added.

Deve Gowda hospitalised

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following sudden variation in health, former prime minister H D Deve Gowda was admitted to a private hospital in the city on Monday late night.

Sources close the JD(S) supremo's family said, Gowda has undergone dialysis and kept under observation for two days. The sources even said that there was nothing serious and that the ex-CM was doing fine. However, hospital sources said that Gowda had been kept in ICU and was under observation.

For BU toppers, humble beginnings are no stumbling block

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prema S.

Divya.

Hemanth A S.

Her father sells wristwatches on the road in Jalahalli, while her mother makes chapatis at an eatery, but her humble background did not stop Prema S from pursuing glory.

On Wednesday, Prema S will receive not just her MA (Kannada) degree at the Bangalore University's 60th annual convocation ceremony, but also take home a whopping 11 gold medals – the most by a student.

A student at the Centre for Kannada Studies at the varsity's Jnana Bharati campus, Prema nursed her passion for Kannada right from childhood.

"My entire education was in Kannada-medium. I have a special love for Kannada language and literature. I cultivated the habit of reading Kannada books from my schooldays," said Prema, explaining her decision to pursue a master's degree in Kannada.

Having set her sights on a career in teaching, Prema is currently pursuing a BEd course.

An elated Prema told *DH*, "When I learnt I had won 11 gold medals, it came as a surprise. I can't express my happiness. I want to achieve more in life. Alongside teaching, I want to prepare for competitive examinations."

Divya S, who has bagged six gold medals and four cash prizes, too has an inspiring story. Her parents, who migrated to Bengaluru from Tamil Nadu 20 years ago, sell home-made papad.

Her family's financial condition compelled Divya, a BCom graduate, to put her dream of earning an MBA on hold. Having secured a job at a private firm, Divya hopes to save enough money to enrol in an MBA course next year.

BE (Civil Engineering) student Hemanth A S, who has emerged as the most decorated undergraduate student with seven gold medals and three cash prizes, too hails from a family of modest means. While his father drives an auto, his mother is a homemaker.

After completing his diploma, Hemanth secured a seat in engineering through lateral entry, and set about scripting a success story.

Six of the seven gold medallists in the postgraduate category are girls. Similarly, three of the four toppers in the undergraduate category are girls. With seven gold medals, Rufiya K M (Department of Physics), and Vidhyashree B S (Department of Chemistry) have slotted in second on the list of toppers in the undergraduate category. While Gowthami B M (Department of Zoology) and Likitha Kumari (Department of Mathematics) have bagged six medals each, Vikas M (Department of Economics) and Harshitha N (Department of History) have each won five gold medals.

Sahana Jadav T, a BBA student at RNS First-Grade College, has won five gold medals, as has Rajath M, a mechanical engineering student at UVCE.

Former director of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory Prahlada Rama Rao will deliver the convocation address, while Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar will be among those attending the ceremony.

The tally

- 19,819 students pass with distinction
- 30,300 students to receive degrees
- 64 eligible PhD scholars
- 7,186 students secure first class
- 763 students pass with second class
- 158 students secure pass class

Honorary doctorate for Khader

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly U T Khader is one of the three distinguished individuals – former MLC D Madegowda and T B Prasanna of J P Agri Genetics Private Limited being the other two – who will be conferred the honorary doctorate by Bangalore University on Wednesday. Dismissing suggestions of having nominated Khader owing to political pressure, varsity Vice-Chancellor Dr Jayakara S M said, "We sent a list containing 13 names to a committee constituted by the Governor, who finalised these three." Other politicians to have been conferred the varsity's honorary doctorate include former PM H D Deve Gowda and former CM S M Krishna.

Saumitra takes over as Director (Marketing), IndianOil

P Srivastava assumes charge as Director (Marketing) at IndianOil, bringing with him a distinguished career spanning over three decades within the corporation. An academic stalwart, he is a civil engineering graduate from IIT Roorkee and holds an Executive MBA from SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai. He has been instrumental in shaping key business segments, starting with an initial four-year tenure in the LPG business before transitioning to various key positions within the sales function. In his new role, he will steer the strategic direction of IndianOil's vast, nationwide marketing infrastructure, ensuring sustained market leadership and customer service.

Curated by DH Brandspot

POLL PACT: LJP (Ram Vilas) could team up with Prashant Kishor if talks fail, say sources

BJP-Chirag Paswan seat-sharing deal hits roadblock

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Just days ahead of the filing of nominations for the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections, NDA partners have begun to firm up seat-sharing arrangements.

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan on Tuesday met BJP's Bihar in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday to discuss seat allocation for the NDA constituent.

Talks appear to have hit a roadblock over two constituencies—Brahmpur and Govindganj—which Paswan is keen to secure for his party.

Senior BJP leaders, Vinod Tawde, Mangal Pandey and Dharmendra Pradhan, meet LJP (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan. PTI

BIHAR VOTES

Brahmpur was given to Vikassheel Insaan Party in the last elections, but the LJP candidate performed better.

Paswan, who will be fighting his first assembly elections as part of the NDA, has reportedly demanded 40 seats in the 243-member assembly, while the BJP is keen on only giving 15 seats.

There is buzz that Paswan might team up with strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj party, if seat-sharing talks with NDA partners fail.

Paswan has said it does not make sense that the BJP and the JD(U) will contest 100 seats each, leaving 35 for the other partners.

Paswan, who has let known his displeasure, had earlier met JP Nadda during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The LJP had contested Assembly elections in Bihar in 2020 alone across 143 seats, winning only one, but it ate into the vote share of Nitish Kumar's JDU.

Chirag then broke away from the LJP and formed the LJP (Ram Vilas) faction, which contested five Lok Sabha seats in 2024.

Sources in the BJP said Paswan has demanded two seats in each of the Parliamentary segments where his party had won in the 2024 Lok Sabha.

The Jitan Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) have both demanded 15-20 seats each. BJP, however, is likely to drive a hard bargain of less than 10, said sources.

The BJP is also likely to give Chirag's party more than HAM and RLSP, said sources.

VIP's Mukesh Sahani stakes claim for Deputy CM post

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The seat-sharing talks for the Bihar Assembly elections in the I.N.D.I.A bloc appears to have hit a roadblock with some smaller allies seeking a larger piece of the pie.

The Vikassheel Insaan Party chief Mukesh Sahani, who claims to be having a hold on his numerically-strong fellow castemen – Mallahs (boatmen and fishermen), is demanding at least 40 seats and that he be declared the deputy chief minister candidate.

"Our demand is as per our strength. We will sort it (seat-sharing) out in the next two days," said Sahani, who had a one-to-one meeting with Tejashwi in the wee hours of Tuesday. The RJD leader is keen to keep the Mahagatbandhan flock together, as Sahni had left the Opposition alliance in 2020 at the last minute.

"During the 2020 Assembly polls, both the NDA and the Mahagatbandhan secured 37% votes in the neck-to-neck fight, where the NDA won 125 seats as against the Mahagatbandhan's 110. The RJD emerged as the single largest party.

While Chirag was responsible for Nitish's poor tally; Sahani left Tejashwi at the last moment and this hit the Mahagathbandhan hard.

It is against this backdrop that even smaller allies are being wooed this time," said political analyst Ajay Kumar.

CPI(ML)L rejects RJD's 19-seat offer, says all options open

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The CPI(ML)L on Monday 'outrightly' rejected an offer to contest 19 seats in the Bihar Assembly elections, as part of the RJD-led alliance.

The CPI(ML)L leaders called the offer an 'attack on its dignity' and said 'all options are open' for the party, which won 12 out of 19 seats in 2020 with a vote share of 3.16%.

Meanwhile, the CPI(M) and CPI are upset with the repeat offer of 10 seats together by the RJD. Sources also indicated Congress has settled for 54-55 seats even though it is trying to coerce the RJD to give it another 8-10 seats.

Sources said the CPI(ML)L has conveyed its strong displeasure to the RJD. The party submitted a fresh list, highlighting its demand for around 30 seats.

CPI(ML)L sources said a decision on the future course of action will depend on the decision RJD takes on the revised list being shared soon.

The party leaders told *DH* that they cannot compromise on the dignity of the party. "Giving us seats means a sure shot victory. If they want to win, they should accept the revised list," a senior leader said.

In 2020, the CPI(ML)L had entered the Mahagadbandhan at the last minute. While it was planning to field 30 candidates, it contested only 19 seats.

CPI(ML)L had won six seats with a vote share of 2.5% in 2000 in undivided Bihar and had won seats since then, except in 2010.

In 2005, CPI(ML)L had won five seats with a vote share of 2.37% while five years later drew a blank with vote share also decreasing to 1.54%. Contesting alone in 2015, it won three seats with a vote share of 1.54%. However, in 2020, it grabbed 12 seats with a vote share of 3.16%.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the CPI(ML)L won both seats it contested.

TG bypoll: Cong leader booked for distributing voter ID cards

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Hyderabad police have registered a case against Congress leader V Naveen Yadav for allegedly distributing voter identity cards in the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency, where a bypoll is scheduled for November 11.

Acting on a complaint filed by an election official, Madhuranagar police booked Yadav on Monday.

According to police sources, Yadav had allegedly collected OTPs from applicants, downloaded their voter ID cards, and handed them over to beneficiaries during a ceremony.

Though the incident reportedly took place about a month ago, it came to light only now, prompting the police action.

The controversy deepened on Monday after BJP Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao complained to the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer, alleging that Yadav had distributed voter ID cards at a programme organised in Jubilee Hills.

He pointed out that, as per Election Commission guidelines, only Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are authorised to distribute voter ID cards, and that too under the direct supervision of the EC and local authorities. BRS working president K T Rama Rao took to social media to question the propriety of Naveen Yadav's actions.

SC notice to Assam BJP on 'Muslim takeover' post

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice on a plea to take down a video posted by the BJP Assam for allegedly openly targeting, vilifying and demonising Muslims.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta decided to examine a pending writ petition filed by journalist Qurban Ali and former judge Anjana Prakash, related to hate speech.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for the applicant, contended that the AI-generated video, posted as part of the upcoming elections, showed that in case a certain political party does not come to power, a certain community would take over.

"It showed people with skullcaps and beards, in such cases, an FIR should be suo motu lodged, if not, then contempt action is to be undertaken," the bench said.

The application sought directions to X India Pvt Ltd and the BJP Assam unit for the taking down of the video posted on the social media.

The plea claimed that the BJP's Assam unit on September 15 circulated a video showing a "grossly false narrative that depicts the takeover of Assam by Muslims if the BJP doesn't remain in power in Assam" on its official X handle.

"The ruling dispensation, BJP-Assam is bound by the Constitution and thereby is bound to uphold the secular values that form part of the basic structure of the Constitution. However, the video circulated by its official Twitter openly targets, vilifies and demonises Muslims," the application contended.

It said a state government is the guardian of all communities and is specifically prohibited by the Constitution from engaging in discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, gender and language. "Thus, the burden of being fair, just and secular is far greater on an elected government," it said.

'Can't have roving inquiry': SC on Bihar roll revision

Top court says those aggrieved should file affidavit before it

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it could not have a roving inquiry in connection with Bihar's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The court felt, at least for illustrative purposes, that affidavits of those persons who were aggrieved should be brought on record.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said, "Somebody will have to file some affidavit before us that I am the person affected."

Giving an example, the bench said that if a voter knew that his name was not there in the revised list, at least he could file an affidavit.

"But today, when the final list is displayed, at least today I know my name is not there... We are only to find out some potential examples," said the bench.

The court said illegal immigrants were living unauthorised in India and they did not want to get exposed.

100 affidavits

"For whom are we fighting then? They do not want to come forward," said the bench as advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, said he could bring 100 affidavits regarding the deletion of names from the electoral rolls, and that there was a systemic problem.

The bench said, "Let us have a list of 100 or 200 people. We are talking of illustratively saying that we want to file an appeal, and no order has been communicated to us. At least, we have something."

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the Election Commission, said no deletion or addition in the electoral rolls had been done without notice, and no appeal was filed by anybody.

"You can pick one constituency as a model, as a pilot project. You can give us a list of persons in this constituency who have not been served with any order despite being willing to file an appeal, and they want to file their claim for inclusion," the bench told Bhushan.

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi meets actor and honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army Mohanlal in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

'Don't cross Laxman Rekha': VP in first meet with Rajya Sabha floor leaders

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan on Tuesday held his first formal meeting with floor leaders during which he advised them "not to cross the Laxman Rekha", though they have the right to speak, even as Opposition leaders urged him to allow discussions on issues raised by them.

Radhakrishnan, who was elected Vice President last month following the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar with whom the Opposition had a running battle, sought cooperation from the floor leaders for "productive" Parliament sessions.

Sources said the meeting was "positive" and "cordial" with the Chairman telling the leaders that every new MP has a chance to make their maiden speech without trouble and they should give him some time as the upcoming Winter Session would be his "maiden session".

Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairman CP Radhakrishan being greeted by DMK MP Tiruchi Siva during a meeting with all-party leaders of the House in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Underlining that "dialogue, deliberation, debate, and discussion" are the basic tenets of parliamentary democracy, Radhakrishnan told the leaders, "every day, every hour, every minute, every second of the time in the House, should be used to strengthen democracy."

He said the Constitution of India and the Rules Book serve as the guiding framework -- the Laxman Rekha -- for parliamentary discourse.

While Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge did not attend as he is recuperating after a surgery, Leader of the House J P Nadda, Congress leaders Pramod Tiwari and Jairam Ramesh, Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav, Trinamool Congress' Sagarika Ghose, CPM's John Brittas, CPI's P Sandosh Kumar, and AAP's Sanjay Singh, among others, attended.

Sources said Opposition leaders raised several issues, including discussions on issues raised by them, disallowing questions, ministers providing "evasive" answers and earmarking more time for smaller parties, among other concerns.

Brittas referred to the practice of Parliaments in the UK and other countries earmarking a substantial amount of time and certain days for business suggested by the Opposition. He suggested that even if days are not earmarked, issues of importance should be allowed.

Referring to disallowing questions on contentious issues and ministers providing evasive answers, Brittas said it now appears filing an RTI query is more effective than raising a question in Parliament.

T'gana minister alleges casteism by Cabinet colleague

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Two ministers in Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Cabinet appear to be at loggerheads after Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar allegedly made derogatory remarks about Minorities Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman.

During a recent election event in Rahmath Nagar as part of the Jubilee Hills by-poll campaign, Prabhakar was heard referring to Laxman as a "dunnapothu" (buffalo) while speaking with another minister, G Vivek.

"He is a buffalo, has no value for life," Prabhakar was allegedly heard telling Vivek as Laxman arrived late.

Prabhakar's microphone was still on, and his comments were audible to everyone present at the meeting.

Deeply hurt by the remark, Laxman has said he would file a complaint with the party high command if Prabhakar failed to apologise to him.

As Laxman belongs to the Dalit community, several scheduled caste (SC) MLAs from the Congress have expressed solidarity with him. They met state Congress chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud on Tuesday to convey their concerns.

On the CM's directions, Goud called Laxman and advised both ministers to work things out.

During the call, Laxman reportedly expressed his anger at Prabhakar, asking: "Do you look down on Madigas so much?"

Laxman also expressed anguish, asking whether it was his fault that he became a minister and was born into the Madiga community.

J&K: Encounter erupts between terrorists and police

JAMMU, PTI: An encounter broke out between terrorists and a police party in a remote area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Tuesday evening, a senior police officer said.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, said a joint search operation is underway following the encounter in the Beeranthub area of Kandi.

"Exchange of fire took place between terrorists and the SOG (Special Operations Group) team in the Beeranthub area, Police Station Kandi, Rajouri.

Joint parties of the Police, Army and CRPF have rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area," the IGP said. Officials said there was no report of any casualty in the brief firing.

Bengal BJP MLAs face stir in flood-hit areas

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Two more BJP legislators faced protests in the deluged districts in North Bengal, even as Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee went to the hospital and met saffron party parliamentarian Khagen Murmu on Tuesday, a day after an irate mob attacked him.

Mamata enquired about the medical care being provided to Murmu, who sustained an injury on his face when protesters pelted stones at his car and broke its windshield.

Murmu had been accompanied by Shankar Ghosh, a member of the Bengal Assembly, who had also been injured when they had gone to Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri on Monday. Both were admitted to the same hospital in Siliguri.

The CM, however, met only Murmu and requested him to let her know if the state government could do anything to ensure his medical care at a better facility.

Mamata Banerjee meets bereaved family members during a visit to a flood-hit areas in Darjeeling. PTI

This came even as the BJP raised the pitch of its campaign, accusing the TMC of orchestrating the attack.

The TMC, on the other hand, slammed the BJP-led government in Tripura for the vandalisation of its party office in the state capital Agartala allegedly by a group of the saffron party's workers who were protesting against the assault on Murmu and Ghosh.

The Lok Sabha secretariat asked the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to seek a note on the attack on Murmu, which triggered a war of words between Mamata and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on X on Monday.

'Police failure'

Bengal BJP heavyweight and the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Suvendu Adhikari hit out at the TMC government for the police's failure to arrest the people who had attacked the BJP leaders. He alleged that the attackers might have included "jihadi elements".

Two more BJP legislators—Manoj Oraon and Sikha Chatterjee — faced protests when they visited flood-hit villages in their constituencies.

The TMC alleged that the people of disaster-hit North Bengal were venting their disappointment with BJP leaders they had sent to the Lok Sabha and the Assembly. The party, however, condemned attacks.

Leading Tamil news channel goes off air on state-owned network

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

A leading Tamil news channel has been allegedly taken off air since October 3 from the Tamil Nadu government-owned Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited (TACTV) network, raising serious questions over infringement of free speech.

The reasons for "blocking" *Puthiya Thalaimurai* on the cable TV network among 150 channels are unclear. However, the channel was under attack from several functionaries of the ruling DMK and people affiliated with the party on social media over its "undue and misleading" coverage of the stampede in actor Vijay's rally in Karur on September 27.

TACTV has been one of the most misused government organisations by those in power, who have resorted to blocking TV channels or relegating them to the bottom of the list of channels the network offers.

Sources said relegating the channel is as good as blocking because people won't have the time to scroll down to find the channel and watch it.

The company was floated in 2008 by the then chief minister M Karunanidhi after he and his family had a fallout with Kalanithi Maran and Dayanidhi Maran, who controlled the cable TV business through their company, Sumangali Cable Vision.

However, the DMK regime almost shut the company after the first family patched up with Marans only to be revived by J Jayalalithaa in 2011.

In 2017, the AIADMK government led by Edappadi K Palaniswami had blocked the channel on TACTV after it aired a survey on the R K Nagar by-poll predicting that the then ruling party candidate, T T V Dhinakaran, was on the verge of losing.

In a statement, *Puthiya Thalaimurai* said it has been receiving complaints from several towns and cities across the state that the channel was not visible on the cable TV network.

"*Puthiya Thalaimurai* is not visible on channel no. 44 since Friday. It raises a question whether the channel has been removed from the network. Our representatives have been reaching out to government officials to seek an explanation but so far we have not received any and this leads to fears that our channel might have been blocked," the statement added.

EYE ON ELECTION

Vloggers, feedback: Pinarayi govt preps for polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

With the local body and Assembly polls approaching, the Pinarayi Vijayan government in Kerala is rolling out a slew of initiatives to enhance its connect with the people, the latest being a feedback exercise being planned.

Extending the social security pension to over 60 lakh people from weaker sections, getting vloggers to promote government initiatives, and launching the "CM with Me" citizen connect centre are among the measures to counter anti-incumbency, apart from organising conclaves of various sectors. Even the Global Ayyappa Sangaman was a part of the Pinarayi government's strategy.

The feedback programme is expected to collect people's feedback about government initiatives and suggestions on developing "Nava Keralam"—a new Kerala. Door-to-door surveys will reportedly be carried out as part of the initiative, which government sources said was only in the initial stages of planning.

Meanwhile, the government—eyeing a record third consecutive term in Kerala—has already prepared a panel of around 20 vloggers to promote various government schemes, initiatives, and development projects like the Vizhinjam seaport and the Kochi metro. The selection process was reportedly very meticulous, as the government has already faced embarrassment over engaging known vlogger Jyoti Malhotra for tourism promotion: She was later held on charges of espionage.

Even as five months' social welfare pension of Rs 1,600 per month was due towards over 60 lakh people, the dues were being settled in a phased manner from last year, and now only one month's due is pending.

The "CM with Me" citizen connect centre is also widely considered yet another public relations strategy. A call centre that ensures swift resolution to people's grievances and provides information on government schemes has become operational as part of the initiative.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Assured incumbent, recharged opposition

The stage is set for a crucial Assembly election in Bihar, with the Election Commission of India (ECI) announcing the polling dates on Monday. The Commission has announced polling over two days – November 6 and 11 – and scheduled the counting of votes on November 14. A two-day polling schedule is a welcome departure from the multi-phase model which, sometimes, extends over weeks and delays the results. An extended schedule helps parties and leaders with more resources to campaign for a longer period, gaining an undue advantage in the process. This goes against the idea of fair elections. All parties have welcomed the election schedule. The announcement of dates will formally set their campaigns in motion.

Elections in Bihar carry import beyond the state as their outcome can influence national politics and trends in other poll-bound states. The JD(U), which is part of the NDA government in the state, extends crucial support to the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. Bihar is witnessing shifts in its political landscape. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, after 20 years at the helm, is not the dominant force he once was, while ally BJP has grown more assertive. The Opposition Mahagathbandhan, led by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and consisting of the Congress and other parties, has risen in popular reckoning, and is likely to pose a challenge to the ruling coalition. Bihar will go to polls against the backdrop of ECI's controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. SIR and the political messaging around the exercise are likely to shape voter attitudes and preferences. The opposition parties will hope to build on the encouraging response from the people to the statewide campaign against SIR, led by Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The bitter political face-off over SIR sets the tone for a high-pitched campaign in Bihar

For the NDA, there is a clear ruling-alliance advantage, extended with a favourable caste combination. Nitish Kumar is, still, identified with a record of *sushasan* (good governance). There is also the popular appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the 2020 election, a mere 0.03% separated the vote shares of the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan. In 2025, the electoral outcome will hinge on the interplay of caste – a constant in Bihar polls – with the state's new aspirations and its altered political equations. With freebies and welfare outreach in the form of cash incentives for women, the ruling coalition has set the tone for the campaign. Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, a new entrant in the fray, is unlikely to cause major disruptions in what is expected to be a close fight between the two alliances.

VIP privilege must not hurt devotees

As the Hasanamba Temple in Hassan prepares to open its doors during Deepavali, Revenue Minister and district in-charge Krishna Byre Gowda's recent statement promising to rein in the temple's notorious VIP culture comes as a welcome move. For years, the annual *darshan* of Goddess Hasanamba, revered as the 'Smiling Mother', has been marred by chaotic crowd management, arbitrary privileges, and the deep resentment of ordinary devotees. The 12th-century temple, built by the Hoysala dynasty, is among Karnataka's most spiritually significant shrines. Its sanctum remains closed for a year. Understandably, when the temple opens for a brief period each year, lakhs flock for the *darshan*. Last year, the temple saw a record 20.4 lakh devotees; this year, the number may exceed 25 lakh.

But routinely, the ordinary devotee is subjected to an ordeal of endurance and humiliation. In previous years, long queues stretching for several kilometres were halted for hours to accommodate the visiting VIPs and their entourages. Thousands of special passes were issued under political and bureaucratic pressure, effectively creating two classes of devotees – those with influence and those without. This blatant discrimination has often triggered impromptu protests outside the temple, reflecting the deep resentment among the worshippers. Such practices are a stain on the sanctity of the pilgrimage and erode trust in spiritual institutions that are meant to serve all equally.

The VIP culture at the Hasanamba Temple has caused resentment among worshippers

The minister's promise this year – to cap the passes at about a thousand, allocate fixed time slots, restrict entourages, and prohibit private vehicles near the temple premises – is a step in the right direction. In the past, VIPs have arrived with dozens of relatives, aides, and hangers-on walking past the waiting crowds. These reforms must be enforced in letter and spirit, for the credibility of the administration hinges on ensuring that no devotee, however humble, feels excluded or demeaned. Given the anticipated crowds, the authorities must also prioritise safety. Crowd density mapping, one-way queue systems, surveillance, trained personnel, and strong barricades are imperative to prevent stampedes. Large gatherings in the recent past have turned tragic. The Hasanamba festival is a celebration of faith. If the administration succeeds in ensuring equal access, orderly queues, and safe *darshan* for all, it will not only honour the deity but also send a message that the government stands on the side of the people, not privilege. Dismantling the arrogance of VIP culture at her gates would be a true offering to the Smiling Mother of Hassan.

SACKED, BONDED, EXPLOITED

The labour fault lines in India's growth story

Forced exits and regressive employment practices spoil the scene. Iron-hand action will be the best reform

JAGDISH RATTANANI

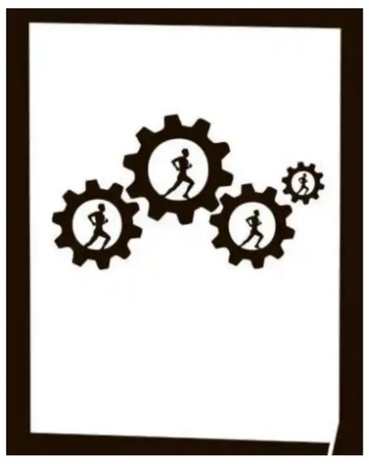
India's IT services sector has been a star performer. It has turned raw engineers into seasoned professionals and seized contracts and opportunities across the globe. On the other hand, India's small and medium enterprises (SME) sector is the silent backbone of the Indian economy. If IT is about fewer firms with millions of employees, the SME sector is all about millions of firms, each with a smaller number of workers. Together, they offer two lenses on India's growth story. Both contribute to making India the world's fourth-largest economy – a point of fact that has been fashioned into a matter of pride.

But this happy story has a twist. Seen through the lens of layoffs that are now in the news, the big and the small both offer a picture that is less pretty, and in part may be downright ugly. In the IT services sector, where the workforce is being trimmed, regulators can no longer ignore the allegations of forced resignations, downright threats, and abuse of due process. Not all that is being alleged is true, but equally, the complaints are not without substance. Protests and social turmoil have come faster than expected.

If this is one side of an India story that takes a stand against layoffs, there is a lesser-known story of workers who want to be laid off and freed of their horrible work burdens but are not allowed to go home. Last week, 13 migrant workers from Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, harassed by their employers, were allowed to leave for home only after an intervention from the state government. *PTI* reported that a company in the Morbi district of Gujarat denied them food and other facilities and refused salaries when they wanted to leave. The 13 had to be "rescued" after the Jharkhand government's labour department intervened, not only to let them return home but also to get their dues: a total of Rs 68,000 for the 13 workers. The company is now reported to be under investigation in Gujarat.

Yet, this is not the first time that migrant workers, notably tribals seeking employment away from home, are forced to work virtually as bonded labour. News reports abound of how companies in small units have brought in labour and exploited them for work at low wages and with little regard for their health, working conditions, or even the willingness to serve.

Forced exits in the IT sector and forced work in smaller shops and factories are two worlds that make one story of India's growth trajectory. Both contribute to growth but also raise questions on work standards and serve



to reinforce the traditional Indian suspicion of the private sector.

This anti-market sentiment limits trust in the private sector and sets political limits to the agenda of privatisation and liberalisation. Crony capitalism and the rise of a favoured few place further burdens on the trust capital, eroding the faith of the large mass of people in the capacity of the private sector to do good for people and society while doing well for shareholders.

When companies see they can get away with a violation of labour laws, erode the dignity of workers, or do worse with their workforce, more violations of this kind will follow. The only antidote is to impose exemplary costs on businesses that have little regard for people and to send the message that violations will be met with firm and swift action. Such a resolve will help the citizenry see that while the private sector is all-powerful given its resources, it will be held to the same standards of law as ordinary workers.

A punishing work culture

If a sacking is masked as a resignation, as is being alleged in the case of IT layoffs, this is a serious violation of the laws of the land. If people are brought from remote areas through brokers and employed as slave labour, as alleged in the case of the manufacturing unit in Gujarat, the hirers ought to be put out of business for life and sent to jail. Yet, the slide to today has come from a slippery slope where labour rights have been eroded bit by bit in the name of liberalisation, and worker contractisation has reached a new level. A paper in the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations noted: "Firms appear to be using contract workers to their strategic advantage against unionised directly hired workers to keep their bargaining power and wage demand in check."

In the IT services sector, for example, it is not uncommon to make software engineers work for more than eight hours a day while paying them only for eight. This is brutal and illegal, but has been normalised. Just as working time less than the required is recorded and accounted, time more than usual needs to be recorded and paid for. But such is the state of affairs that this simple point of morality has been ignored by companies that file their accounts in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, or IFRS.

None of this is to argue that companies cannot lay off workers or retrain or re-assign them. The trouble is with a work culture that in India has led to a top-down approach of a commander-in-chief in the role of a CEO and a rigid hierarchy at a time when worker unions have been robbed of their clout. Managements work without meaningful oversight that comes from the shop floor.

This, then, is a valuable example of systems at work – a change thought to be better turns out to make matters worse. Unions were seen as stumbling blocks to growth and vibrancy. Regulation is seen as limiting business. But without active and vibrant unions, and with a pliant officialdom ready to please business, business may be less vibrant and secure than ever.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Touching the sky with glory

As the IAF turns 93, the memories soar high

AIR VICE MARSHAL MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

India's air warriors celebrate their 93rd anniversary today. As they take another step towards their centenary, it is apt to look back on a very eventful year. We veterans recently got a glimpse of where the Indian Air Force is headed at a gathering hosted for us by the men and women in blue at Air Force Station Pune — a premier base that I first visited way back in 1975 as a cadet at the National Defence Academy.

That day is etched in my memory. As we Air Force cadets boarded buses to move to the Pune airbase for our Camp Greener (now called Garuda), the Army cadets cast envious looks our way as they climbed into trucks bound for Shivaji's fort, Torna—from which their 'outing' derived its name, Camp Torna. Theirs was to be a *ragda* in the rolling hills and valleys around Pune, while ours was a visit to operational squadrons. Looking back, the link between then and now feels symbolic. We 20-year-old wannabe flyers went wide-eyed as we looked at, touched and even sat in the cockpit of the iconic MiG-21.

That fighter was the cynosure of all media coverage of the recently concluded 1971 war – the gleaming aluminium airframe, the pointed nose cone that meant business, and the engine exhaust that blew our senses away as a few took to the Pune skies with roaring afterburners. Fast-forward to 2025, and just a fortnight ago the IAF bid farewell at Chandigarh to that very icon that had guarded our skies and taken the fight to the adversary for decades. It had done one more task – training generations of young fighter pilots to man our skies and graduate to more sophisticated machines.

The gathering at the verdant Pune Air Force Station could not have been more symbolic. Among those present was a retired IAF chief who, remarkably, could be called a youngster, for in the gathering sat a wizened old air warrior commissioned a decade and a half before him! The big screen flashed glimpses of the IAF's exploits through the years—the biplane Tiger Moth, the Dakota, and the Mi-4 helicopter giving way to the MiGs, the Rafale, the C-17 Globemaster, and the Apache helicopters. A rock band comprising young officers soon had everyone on their feet – the young, the not-so-young, and the not-so-old (!) hitting the dance floor to the iconic *Yeh aasmaan hai mera...*

But the icing on the cake was the full-throated rendering of the Air Force song by all. For us air warriors, it came as second nature, yet it was the glistening eyes and moist handkerchiefs of the veteran ladies that brought home the gravitas of the occasion – the years they spent looking after the home, children and family while we were at work, on the ground or in the skies. Hats off to them – they are silent air warriors in their own right.

Air Warriors, here's wishing you happy landings as you continue to 'Touch the Sky with Glory!'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lawyer's act diminishes the dignity of judiciary

Apropos 'Lawyer tries to hurl shoe at CJI' (Oct 7), the incident of a Supreme Court lawyer attempting to hurl a shoe at the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and its aftermath are deeply disturbing. This act, which seems premeditated, highlights a deep-seated prejudice, inculcated through ultra-religious campaigns, finding expression in an extremely intemperate reaction. The ignominious act has multiple angles, including caste, religion, and judgements. The action of hurling a shoe is a symptom of a deeply worrying mindset. Although the CJI has graciously let the perpetrator off without complaint, this incident is too serious to forgive and forget. Allowing the culprit to go scot-free sends a wrong message, especially when the image of one of the highest constitutional authorities is sought to be sullied in a manner unbecoming of anyone, let alone a lawyer. As the advocate in question is a registered member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, it is incumbent upon the body to take decisive action and mete out exemplary punishment for this unprecedented act, which diminishes the dignity of the highest judicial body.

Vijaya Krishna Kumar K T, Bengaluru

Overhaul the system

The Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru appears to have become a safe haven for VIP prisoners, who enjoy special status and preferential treatment. The case of prisoner Srinivasa alias Gubbachi Seena, who was seen celebrating his birthday with admirers, is a case in point. The fact that smartphones, weapons, and drugs easily find their way into the prison suggests that the authorities are either incompetent or complicit in this nefarious activity. The case of actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is well-known, and the privileges he enjoyed despite being charged with a serious crime are a stark reminder of the systemic rot that has enveloped the prison system. The lower courts' tendency to be swayed by public adulation, as seen in this case, is also a worrying trend. The fact that an enquiry has been ordered and someone will likely be suspended is a familiar pattern, but it does little to address the underlying issues. Until the system is overhauled, such incidents will continue to occur.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Change unnecessary

The suggestion to name the BMRCL's Namma Metro after a revered reformer is misplaced. The term 'metro' refers to a city's rail transport system, as seen in examples like Delhi Metro and Paris Metro. If politicians wish to pay tribute to a visionary like Basava --which they should-- they could consider naming the legislative assembly at Vidhana Soudha as Anubhava Mantapa. This would be a fitting tribute and a reminder to elected leaders of their sworn responsibilities.

M S Sharada Prasad, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

On November 14 (counting of votes), the people of Bihar are going to create history. They want change this time. After November 14, unemployment in Bihar will start to be eradicated... We will deliver financial justice.

Tejashwi Yadav, RJD Leader

I try not to get involved in the business of prediction. It's a quick way to look like an idiot.

Warren Ellis

TO BE PRECISE

Citing 'sanatan dharma', lawyer hurls shoe at CJI

IN PERSPECTIVE

Arattai and the coordination game

To challenge WhatsApp's monopoly, the Indian messaging app will need triggers for a mass migration of users

ANIRBAN GHATAK

Arattai, the homegrown Indian messaging app, has been trying to carve out space in a world where WhatsApp is almost synonymous with online communication. The challenge it faces is not about technology or design alone. It is about coordination. In markets like social networking, success depends less on having a better product and more on whether people believe everyone else will use it.

The logic is simple. Messaging apps are only valuable if the people you want to talk to are there. If I believe my family, friends, and business contacts will move to Arattai, then I should move too. If I believe they will all stay on WhatsApp, there is no point in shifting. This creates two stable outcomes. In one, everyone sticks to WhatsApp. In the other, everyone moves to Arattai. Both are possible, but only one will survive. The formula that guides behaviour is "do what you think others are doing." In game theory, this is called a coordination game, where both choices can be rational but only one will prevail, depending on what people expect others to do.

This is why incumbents dominate social media. Once a platform becomes the default, it is hard to dislodge. That is why Facebook owns social networking, LinkedIn owns professional networking, Instagram owns photo sharing, and YouTube owns video.

Downloading a new app only takes seconds. But switching together is the real problem. Unless whole networks move at once, the lone user gains nothing. This is the coordination trap at the heart of Arattai's struggle.

History shows that there are usually two ways the lock-in breaks. The first is through viral energy. Sometimes a new platform becomes popular because it feels new and exciting – think TikTok. The second is through fear or regulation. When WhatsApp announced changes to its privacy policy in 2021, many people experimented with Signal and Telegram. That moment of uncertainty gave alternatives a sudden boost. Both paths show that it takes more than good design to spark mass migration.

Can Arattai find such a spark? On the plus side, its strongest card is its Indian identity. At a time when digital self-reliance is a national theme, this matters. There is also a real trust deficit with foreign tech giants, whether over data privacy, monopoly power, or regulatory disputes. Arattai can position itself as safer, more compliant, and more aligned with Indian interests. If institutions like schools, government offices, or large businesses adopt it formally, they could anchor a base of users and make others follow.

It takes more than quality

But the obstacles are steep. WhatsApp is deeply embedded in Indian life. It is used for family chats, neighbourhood stores, weddings, politics, and everything in between. Even if Arattai is free, secure, and user-friendly, it looks more like a replica than a reinvention. Unless it can offer something truly different that WhatsApp does not, the question for most users will remain, why shift at all?

This highlights a deeper truth. We like to think better products always win. In network-driven markets, that is often false. Betamax was technically superior to VHS, but lost because rental stores and film studios rallied around VHS. Google Plus had features Facebook never offered, but users never moved together, so it withered. Blackberry had secure, reliable phones, but lost once people believed everyone else was buying iPhones. That is the nature of coordination games.

The same applies here. For policymakers, the lesson is that competition in digital markets cannot be left to product quality alone. If we want to give new players a fair chance, we may need regulatory nudges, such as requiring interoperability or easing data transfer. For entrepreneurs, the message is clear. Building a superior app is only the first step. The harder step is to convince enough people to believe, at the same time, that others will come too.

So, will Arattai succeed? It will succeed only if it finds the right trigger. That could be a viral wave of adoption or a shock that weakens WhatsApp. Without such a trigger, Arattai may end up as another entry in the long list of challengers who could not solve the coordination problem.

The coordination game favours the incumbent until expectations shift. And expectations, once formed, are stubborn. If people think others will move, they will move too. If not, however promising the app may be, WhatsApp will remain the default. Arattai is not just fighting an incumbent. It is fighting inertia, and inertia is the toughest competitor of all.

(The author is an assistant professor of Economics at IIM Kozhikode)

Modernise crowd management with technology for safer mass gatherings

A RAVINDRA

The recent tragedies caused by stampedes -- at Karur in Tamil Nadu, the cricket stadium in Bengaluru, and earlier this year at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj -- resulting in loss of life and injuries to several people, should serve as a wake-up call to those responsible for crowd management. With increasing urban population, there is a natural tendency for people to gather in large numbers for festivals, rallies, religious processions, tourist and sporting events. Authorities must therefore be adequately prepared to manage the crowds.

Large crowds can cause inconvenience and risk to others not involved in the event -- traffic delays, pollution, stampedes, fights, and medical emergencies. It is unfortunate that lessons are not learnt from past tragedies, such as the Bengaluru Venus Circus fire in February 1981, which claimed 92 lives and injured around 300 people, or the 2011 Sabarimala stampede that killed 102.

At the Maha Kumbh in February 2025, claimed to be the largest gathering ever with over a crore of people, excellent arrangements were made. Yet, a stampede followed the collapse of barricades when large numbers of pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam, resulting in at least 30 deaths and 90 injured. There were also management failures in sanitation and transport arrangements, leading to sewage-contaminated river water and visitors walking long distances to reach the venue. It was further alleged that VIP treatment took precedence over public safety.

There are well-established crowd control measures to ensure safety, some of which are listed below.

Planning: The World Health Organisation defines a mass gathering as "more than a specified number of persons at a specific location for a specific purpose for a defined period of time". Taking this and other relevant factors into account, an overall plan must be prepared for each event, covering both preventive measures and actions to be taken in case of emergencies.

Risk Assessment: Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment to identify potential hazards, considering the type of event, the audience, and the venue.

Barrier placement: Proper use of safety cones and barricades to guide crowd movement prevents overcrowding in specific areas and acts as a psychological guide for how crowds flow through space.

Signage and communication: Attendees must be properly informed about directions, entry and exit points, and safety protocols. Apart from clear signage, public announcements should be made regularly. This helps regulate crowd volume and minimise congestion.

Emergency preparedness: An emergency plan should be in place for each event to enable safe evacuation. Staggering entry and exit points at critical times can prevent overcrowding.

With rapid urbanisation, large gatherings will only keep increasing, and traditional methods such as lathi charges, tear gas, and water jets fall short. Crowd control solutions have evolved, requiring an understanding of modern technology, security measures and human behaviour. By using appropriate technologies, event managers can develop effective strategies for managing crowds.

Western countries have adopted innovative solutions. Artificial intelligence is now widely used through computer vision and data analysis for real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and managing traffic and movements in various situations. AI systems use cameras to create 'density maps' that identify areas with high population density, while computer vision tools detect deviant or potentially dangerous behaviour and abnormal crowd patterns.

Mobile operators also play a role in monitoring and analysing crowd and transport movement to detect unusual behaviour. Network data and IoT sensors are used to gauge crowd densities at different locations. Live videography, drones, and CCTV provide visual evidence. Social media platforms are effectively used to counter rumours and block fake messages. Fog and cloud computing enable real-time data collection. Technologies such as 'Flow Camera' and 'Wifi Triangulation' are increasingly common. Police forces in some countries also use chemical irritants and malodourants like 'skunk', developed by the Israeli armed forces, to disperse crowds.

The IIM-Ahmedabad has developed an Institutional Repository in collaboration with the IISc-Bengaluru Transportation Engineering Lab to "understand the dynamics of mankind's largest crowd", based on a study of Maha Kumbh at Ujjain in 2016. Another IIM-A study, initiated by the National Disaster Management Authority, highlights "generic safety, security, and future guidelines to avoid stampedes and casualties". One of its recommendations was to deny entry to VIPs if it compromised public safety.

The Antwerp Case Study in Belgium shows how Orange Belgium, a telecom company, collaborated with Cropland and the City of Antwerp to deploy a crowd management solution for local events like hosting the Tour de France and Tall Ship Races. This system provided real-time data on the location of all mobile phones connected to networks in a given area.

It would be useful to develop case studies of incidents where stampedes have occurred, to identify failures and take corrective action. Authorities in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu would do well to initiate studies of the Bengaluru stadium and Karur events in collaboration with institutions like IIM, IIT and IISc.

For successful planning and execution of crowd control measures, trained personnel are indispensable. It has now become essential to have a dedicated force trained in crowd management, capable of monitoring and responding quickly to any emerging issue. Additional forces can be mobilised as required. A control centre can be established to digitally monitor large events, providing real-time information on crowd movement and personnel deployment. Existing traffic control centres can also be used for this purpose.

Finally, effective governance is crucial. Proper coordination must exist between different layers of government – the state administration, city police, district authorities and other stakeholders such as electricity and water boards, transport operators and emergency medical services. During major events, it is best to restrict the use of private vehicles and promote public transport.

The health and well-being of personnel engaged in crowd control -- often ignored -- also deserve adequate attention.

(The writer is a former chief secretary, Government of Karnataka)

Behind the tech-driven surge, Trump's tariffs and missteps are eroding real growth as AI investments are lifting the numbers—not the fundamentals

NATASHA SARIN

THE NEW YORK TIMES

There are two economies: AI and everything else

Since President Trump took office, the economy has followed a pattern. The administration does something outlandish — tariff rates at levels not seen in a century, trying to fire a Federal Reserve governor — and economists, myself included, warn of the deep risks.

So far, though, the economy has kept chugging along. The market did plummet in April over the "Liberation Day" tariffs, but it has since rebounded many times over, rising to new highs 30 times this year. Risky policies that alarm mainstream economists don't appear to be having much of an effect on the economic indicators we follow.

That's because something positive is happening in Mr. Trump's economy. It's just happening in spite of his policies, not because of them.

The economy is being bolstered by a remarkable investment boom in artificial intelligence. A credible estimate suggests that AI capital expenditures may reach 2% of the gross domestic product in 2025, up from most likely less than 0.1% in 2022. To provide some sense of scale, that means the equivalent of about $1,800 per person in America will be invested this year on AI.

Without these investments, economic growth this year may have clocked in at around 1%. Instead, it is likely to land at almost twice that. Just seven large technology companies are responsible for nearly 60% of the gains in the S&P 500 this year.

The coat of AI gloss is giving the administration runway to double down on bad ideas: America's effective overall tariff rate is nearly back to the levels announced in April, the vice president has called for the administration to be involved in the Federal Reserve's interest rate decisions and Trump fired the head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics after a disappointing jobs report. The situation is worse than having all of your economic eggs in one basket. It's closer to putting all of your eggs in one basket and stomping on all the other baskets.

There are signs that the non-AI economy is under duress. As economists predicted, tariffs are pushing up inflation and dragging down growth. Hiring has stalled. Jobs are particularly hard to come by for young people entering the labour market; youth unemployment is at 10.5%, a level not seen in nearly a decade, absent the pandemic.

These are problems the AI boom is likely to worsen, not ease. The president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Neel Kashkari, recently pointed out that while it takes a lot of money to build AI data centres, it does not take that many workers to operate them.

It is somewhat illogical to reckon with these two parts of the economy separately. If there were no data centres to build, dollars would flow into other types of investment. It is possible that other parts of the economy are being held back by AI's dominance. That is what happened in the 1990s Internet boom. Smaller manufacturing firms had a hard time getting access to capital that flooded instead into every dot-com company on offer (some more successful than others). But it seems clear that there are two powerful economic forces pulling in opposite directions.

The Trump administration's trade war and attack on institutions like the Fed serve to make investors wary, businesses uncertain and the economy weaker. Slowing immigration also has a significant impact. Last year the economy was projected to be 3% larger by 2034 because of now outdated assumptions about an influx of immigrants.

The boon from artificial intelligence has the potential to outweigh that policy-induced drag. Looking back to the last tech boom is informative. In the early 1990s, labour productivity growth was sluggish, averaging less than 1 percent. It rose to 3% by the end of the decade, powered by computerisation and the Internet revolution. That helped the economy soar and the federal government balance its budget for the first time in recent history. Something similar may be afoot.

Presidents do not control business cycles, nor can they do much to change demographic trends or bring down the cost of groceries. In good times, politicians often get too much credit for their economic wizardry; in bad times, too much blame.

Right now, though, policy choices are getting too little blame. Estimates suggest that tariffs alone will cause the economy to be persistently 0.4% smaller than it would have been, primarily through reduced productivity and investment. The fact that the economy is likely to benefit meaningfully from technological progress does not mean the dials of the economy we can control are unimportant or that their mismanagement will ultimately not be damaging. If history is any guide, this revolutionary technology will change the world but not without causing economic chaos. That is the story of the dot-com bubble bursting and of "railway mania" in Britain in the 1800s.

In both cases, investors flooded into ultimately unprofitable ventures. Pets.com was able to attract funding. So, too, were multiple competing railway lines between Liverpool and Leeds. Bubbles burst, financial markets collapse, investors count their losses and people lose their livelihoods.

Large-scale labour force displacement may be upon us. Automation could widen global inequality. A financial crisis could be looming. Private equity-backed insurance companies are funnelling policyholders' premiums into the energy and infrastructure investments required to power the AI boom, much as banks before the financial crisis funded a mortgage boom they didn't fully understand.

Or more banally, AI may take time to reach its transformational potential. In 1987, the economist Robert Solow quipped, "You can see the computer age everywhere but in the productivity statistics." Those gains came, but they took years to materialise.

Markets often have a way of disciplining policymakers. The AI boom, by contrast, is masking real problems.

To navigate this moment smoothly requires creating policy that will expand our economy and make it more resilient. At the very least, we should avoid the misguided Trump administration policies that are weakening it.

The New York Times

AI and personality rights of singers

SUNDAR ATHREYA H

Artificial intelligence has displaced the existing norms of copyright like no other technology. Copyright protection is based on the age-old economic principle of offering monopoly to the creators to incentivise. The author of the work enjoys protection over the creation and the future works created based on it. This norm has been challenged by AI.

AI facilitates 'non-creators' to don the creative hat and generate works at a click of a button. This has turned the creative process and creative industry on their heads. Music suffers extensively in the hands of voice cloning platforms. AI has the ability to even generate music in a particular style/voice — alarming from both a creative and a copyright standpoint.

Recently, iconic playback singer Asha Bhosle sued AI platforms and e-commerce platforms before the Bombay High Court to secure her personality rights. Her claim before the court was to restrict the defendants from cloning her voice. She's secured the order in her favour. However, this is not the first time an Indian celebrity has been compelled to move the court to secure their personality rights from the clutches of the AI platforms. AI users are no longer passive consumers but are active consumers who interact with the platform to create work.

Mayk.It (the defendant in the case), through their platform 'covers.ai', facilitates generating songs in the voice of Asha Bhosle and other well-known personalities. The platform, through its terms of use, restricts users from commercially utilising it for the creation of songs, but it does not prohibit the platform from uploading the songs to commercial platforms. This has serious economic and moral implications.

The platform has been trained specifically on the works of Asha Bhosle without her consent. In India, there is a legal uncertainty about whether the training of an AI platform on copyrighted works amounts to infringement or if it is allowed under the education exception. In the present case, it is not limited to mere 'training'; it also involves replication of the song in the singer's voice. This is both a personality and moral rights violation.

Under the copyright law, each stakeholder of the song enjoys different protection: the lyricist enjoys authorship over the lyrics, the composer has authorship over the composition, and the music label enjoys protection over the recording. The 'recording of the song' is generally understood as the song.

The singer is not guaranteed any authorship protection over her creation like the lyricist and the composer, but she enjoys 'performance rights' over the song, wherein she has the right to prohibit anyone from recording the performance without consent; this makes the singer dependent on the music label/composer for their opportunity. After the 2012 amendment to the Copyright Act, the singer also enjoys the right to be compensated when their work is commercially used.

In this background, it becomes relevant to have a policy intervention for AI and copyright issues. Specifically, in the case of music copyright, it may not be possible for singers to approach the court to obtain relief every time. The response should also reflect the reality of the Indian entertainment industry. It should not be a mere legal transplant from a foreign country. The response should address the rights of all the stakeholders. For instance, in the US, the 'ELVIS Act' was recently passed to protect the rights of the artists against unauthorised reproduction by AI platforms, but the Act also enables the recording company to sue the infringers on behalf of the singers.

This solution might leave the singers without any meaningful protection. The singers/lyricists/composers in the future might face a situation of allowing the music label to authorise their respective works for AI training. Considering the poor bargaining power of the artists, they might be compelled to sign the contract, even if they do not intend to provide the consent for AI training. These contracts have already begun to surface in the print publishing industry.

The lawmakers should understand the needs of the creator and envision a robust mechanism to help the creators to secure their personality rights. Platforms like YouTube should also play an active role in helping the artists by removing the content that violates the personality rights of the creators; it could have a 'jump cue option' to remove the works that infringe on the personality rights of the celebrities on a priority basis.

(The writer is an assistant professor at KIIT School of Law)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

D V Gundappa passes away

Bangalore, October 7
Dr. D. V. Gundappa, author, journalist, political thinker and philosopher par excellence, passed away at his residence here this morning after a prolonged illness. Dr. Gundappa, who in his lifetime had become an institution, was 87. He was the recipient of several awards including the Padma Bhushan last year. He was given the Central Sahitya Akademy award in 1967. His son, Dr. B. G. L. Swamy, retired Principal of the Presidency College, Madras, and now a visiting Professor there, and other members of the family were by his bedside.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Thai police arrest Rajan

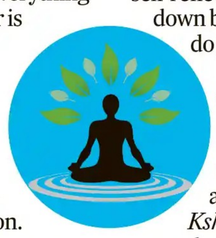
Bangkok, Oct 7(PTI)
Thai police today arrested Mumbai underworld don Chota Rajan for entering into the country on an "illegal" passport and said he would be sent back to India after his trial. Immigration Police Chief Lt Gen Hemaraj Theerathai said Vijay Kadam, alias Chota Rajan, was arrested after a three-member Mumbai police team, which arrived here on Thursday, confirmed that the passport on which Rajan entered Thailand was not genuine. Rajan is undergoing treatment for bullet wounds received during an assault apparently by his rival Chota Shakeel's gang.

OASIS | NAJIB SHAH

Agreements with self

Principles are the anchors which help us go through life. Or as Mexican author Don Miguel Ruiz calls them, agreements, which one makes with oneself, our credo to self.

Ruiz quoting Toltec philosophy breaks down these agreements into four pillars. Being impeccable with your word is the first. *Peccable* is Latin, for sin - impeccable thus means without sin , implying integrity. What this also implies is that one should use the power of words to speak the truth – and yes, it would help if one only spoke what one means and not be fork-tongued. The second pillar is not to take anything personally – but to understand that whatever others say or do is more about the person speaking. We should remember that when we are taking things personally it is also a reflection of ourselves since we assume everything is about 'me'. The third pillar is never to assume but to ask questions to ascertain the truth. This is especially relevant in all human relationships -- the best way to sour a relationship is by assuming things without ascertaining the factual position. The final pillar is to always do your best – an idea which strikes a chord with the philosophy of the Bhagwad Gita with its emphasis on doing your duty without concerning ourselves with the results. What this implies is that one should avoid self-judgement, remorse and regret. Thus, one must self-reflect, ponder, and not get bogged down by failure but to stand up and do your very best again.



As can be seen there are striking similarities with other spiritual and religious traditions. *Satya*, truthfulness in though, words and actions is a theme running across faiths. *Kshama* or forgiveness, the ability to let go of resentment and anger is another virtue so critical in every faith. These virtues are developed only when one introspects; self-awareness being the path to spiritual awakening. This is a theme which runs across Advaita Vedanta, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism. The tragedy is that we all know what is right and wrong, yet chose to take the path of deceit and falsehood in pursuit of instant success .We live in a world where it would appear that honesty is not rewarded-and sadly in some instances even punished. Doing the right thing and being true is challenging.

However, ultimately each of us must arrive at our respective agreements, our principles, which are irrevocable, principles to live by and die for. There can be no better principles than truth and forgiveness, introspection and hard work to help us lead a fulfilling life.

India opposes US bid to regain Afghan air base

Says attempts to deploy military infra unacceptable

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India on Tuesday joined Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran and several other Central Asian nations in opposing United States President Donald Trump's bid to take back control of the military base at Bagram in Afghanistan.

India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan joined the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in terming as 'unacceptable' the 'attempts by countries to deploy their military infrastructure in Afghanistan and neighbouring states', noting that such moves would 'not serve the interests of regional peace and stability'.

The opposition to the US moves for regaining control of the military base was recorded in a joint statement, which was released after the 7th meeting of the 'Moscow Format Consultations' on Afghanistan.

New Delhi's envoy to Moscow, Vinay Kumar, attended the meeting.

The acting foreign minister of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi, also participated in the meeting. Muttaqi will soon visit New Delhi.

The US had abandoned the Bagram Air Base while withdrawing troops from Afghanistan in 2021, setting the stage for the Taliban's return to power after two decades.

Though it was during Trump's first term that the agreement was reached with the Taliban, which enabled it to return to power in Kabul, he later blamed his successor, John Biden, for the chaotic withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan and for giving up control of the military complex in Bagram.

Donald Trump recently said his administration would take back control of the Bagram Air Base from the Taliban, who would need the support of the US.

He pointed out that the military base was close to a nuclear weapon-making facility of China.

He also warned the Taliban of 'bad things' if it did not agree to give back the military facility to the US.

The Taliban regime in Kabul, however, rejected the US demand.

Participants of the 'Moscow Format' talks, including Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Afghanistan's Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Moscow, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Future wars will be fought with data & algorithms: Rajnath

Asks innovators to concentrate on cutting-edge technologies

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the Indian Army embracing Artificial Intelligence, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asked innovators to concentrate on cutting-edge technologies as tomorrow's wars will be fought not only with weapons but also with "algorithms and autonomous systems".

"Battlefield has changed. Wars of tomorrow will be fought with algorithms, autonomous systems and AI. Drones, anti-drone systems, quantum computing and directed-energy weapons will define the future. We have seen such a demonstration during Operation Sindoor," Rajnath said here at an event attended by start-up firms backed by the Defence Ministry.

Later, addressing a national conference on defence manufacturing, he said, "Modern warfare is not only based on weapons, but exploits the influence of frontier technologies like AI, machine learning, robotics, quantum computing, cyber and space technology."

The minister's comments come a day after a top army official explained how 94% accuracy was achieved to pinpoint the location of the enemy guns or missile units during the India-Pakistan conflict in May by creating a battlefield model with archived Pakistani troop movement data and electronic chatter collected and collated over two decades.

"We built the battlefield model from 26 years of archived radio emissions and frequency signatures. The archive not only captured the spectral fingerprints of transmissions but also mapped past movements of individual platforms and their assigned units across Pakistan," said Lt Gen Rajiv Sahni, Director General, Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers.

All enemy data feeds coming from ground sensors, radar, satellites and drones were collated on a single screen for the commander to make quick decisions. This included data on troop position, movement and weapon deployment.

As many as 23 applications were put together to provide a full battlefield picture and post-strike assessment, said Lt Gen Sahni, who was Director General, Information Systems during the hostilities.

A home-grown application for electronic intelligence collation used by all intelligence agencies was tweaked in record time during Operation Sindoor to meet the customised requirements of the military and other agencies to help locate adversary sensors.

For precise targeting with long-range artillery guns, an AI-enabled meteorological reporting system that uses IMD data to predict the wind speed and other weather parameters up to a distance of 200 km, 48 hours in advance, was used.

India procured military hardware and weapons worth Rs 1,20,000 crore from domestic sources by end of 2024-25 as it is increasingly focusing on boosting self-reliance to confront national security challenges

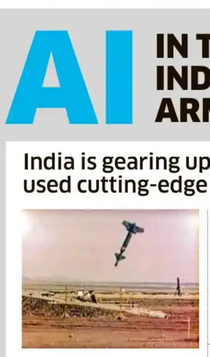
A common surveillance picture and target acquisition system, known as Trinetra, was integrated with Project Sanjay – an all-encompassing battlefield surveillance system rolled out for the northern and western fronts - to generate a common operational and intelligence picture at both tactical and operational levels.

This, according to the officials, enhanced coordination of resources, improved decision-making, and provided commanders at all levels with higher mental agility and situational awareness.

In the last two years, the Indian Army not only created more than 70 digital applications, but it also became a part of every national technology mission. The force has also opened an AI research and incubation centre in Bengaluru.

AI IN THE INDIAN ARMY

India is gearing up for the future and used cutting-edge tech during Op Sindoor



Used AI to mine **26 yrs** of Pakistani Army troop movement data

94% accuracy was achieved in locating the position of guns and missile units

23 Apps were brought together to create full battlefield picture

Home-Grown Application for Electronic Intelligence Collation: This indigenously developed application, used by all intelligence agencies, was modified in record time during Operation Sindoor to meet the customised requirements of various stakeholders and helped in locating adversary sensors.

Analysed archived radio emission and frequency signatures

"Battlefield has changed. Wars of tomorrow will be fought with algorithms, autonomous systems and AI. Drones, anti-drone systems, quantum computing and directed-energy weapons will define the future. We have seen such a demonstration during Operation Sindoor. We must not remain imitators in technology; we must become the creators and standard-setters.
RAJNATH SINGH
Defence minister

Common Surveillance Picture and Target Acquisition: The Trinetra System, integrated with Project Sanjay, assisted in the generation of a Common Operational and Intelligence Picture at both tactical and operational levels. This enhanced coordination of resources, improved decision-making, and provided commanders at all levels with greater mental agility and situational awareness.

Now, rail passengers can change travel dates on confirmed tickets

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian Railways is working on a proposal to allow passengers to modify their travel dates even after they have obtained a confirmed ticket.

The new facility is expected to be launched in January next year, said a senior official in the Railway Ministry, adding that by implementing this, the railway could make its travel more convenient and passenger-friendly.

Once implemented, it could save travellers both time and money by removing the hassle of cancelling and rebooking tickets.

At present, if travellers want to alter their journey date, they must cancel their ticket and make a fresh booking. This involves additional charges for a new ticket and also cancellation fees for the old ticket.

The proposed system will save passengers the cancellation and rebooking charges.

The new facility is also expected to give passengers greater flexibility, particularly for those who have to change their plans unexpectedly, said the official.

Insisting that the Railways was still working on operational modalities, like whether the option would apply to both online and counter bookings, and the number of permissible date changes.

As per the existing rules, cancelling a confirmed ticket 48 to 12 hours before departure results in a 25% deduction from the fare. However, the fee increases for cancellations between 12 and four hours before departure of the train.

Once the reservation chart is prepared, refunds for cancellations are generally not granted.

20 kids died so far due to 'toxic' cough syrup: MP minister

NAGPUR, PTI

Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla on Tuesday said a total of 20 children from the state have died so far while undergoing treatment for kidney failure after drinking a contaminated cough syrup.

He said five children are currently being treated in Nagpur - two each in Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and one in a private hospital.

Earlier, the state government had confirmed the deaths of 16 children from Chhindwara who had allegedly consumed cough syrup Coldrif, samples of which were found to have toxic contents.

Talking to reporters after visiting the children undergoing treatment, Shukla said, "So far, 20 children from Madhya Pradesh have died while undergoing treatment...Two of them died in the past 24 hours."

The syrup responsible for the deaths was manufactured by a company based in Tamil Nadu, Shukla said, adding that action had been taken for negligence against the company owner, the doctor who gave the prescription and and the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) officials involved.

Guj suspends permits

The Gujarat government on Tuesday said it had ordered two pharmaceutical firms under investigation for deaths of children who consumed cough syrup produced by them to suspend manufacturing immediately, reports DHNS from Ahmedabad.

The two firms are Surendranagar-based Shape Pharma Pvt Ltd and Ahmedabad-based Rednex Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Kerala bans Sresan pharma drugs

The Kerala government on Tuesday banned the distribution of medicines manufactured by Tamil Nadu-based Sresan Pharmaceuticals.

The decision follows steps by the Tamil Nadu Drugs Controller to cancel the company's licence, state Health Minister Veena George said.

Sale of Respifresh TR, manufactured by a Gujarat-based firm, were also stopped immediately after the drug was found to be substandard, the minister said, adding that strict action would be taken against those selling this medicine."

Vijay speaks to kin of stampede victims via video calls

CHENNAI, DHNS: Over a week after 41 people died in a stampede in a rally addressed by him, TVK chief Vijay has begun reaching out to families of the victims via video calls.

Sources in TVK told *DH* that Vijay spoke to families of five victims on Monday and Tuesday and will get in touch with the remaining ones soon.

A team from Vijay's inner circle is visiting families of the victims in Karur and neighbouring districts, helping them connect with the actor-politician over phone. Family members of the victims also confirmed to *DH* that they did speak to Vijay over a video call.

"He has begun reaching out. Vijay patiently listened to the sorrows of the families and promised them help. He also told them that he intends to meet them in person very soon," a source said.

"He will travel to Karur to meet families," the source added.

One of the first calls that Vijay made was to K Sathivel, who lost his wife, Priyadarshini, and daughter Dharanika. Sakthivel said Vijay's team told them not to click pictures or record videos of the actor speaking to them.

Jaishankar bats for collective good in AI governance

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The global governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) must confront the temptation of a few nations to put self-interest above collective good, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar underlined the concerns about bias, ethics, privacy, and vulnerability arising out of the new frontier of technology and noted that 'trust and safety' were 'essential for the implementation of responsible AI'.

Jaishankar was speaking at the Trust and Safety India Festival 2025, which is one of the preludes to the AI Impact Summit, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host in February 2026.

"Technology is a force for good, but only if humanity guides it," Jaishankar quoted Modi saying.

While the US launched its AI Action Plan on July 23, China released its Action Plan for Global Artificial Intelligence Governance just three days later. President Donald Trump's administration focused on expanding the AI capabilities of the US and lessening regulations. The Chinese government, on the other hand, focused on expanding its influence in building the global AI governance architecture.

"The different societies have put different levels of emphasis on the benefits and risks of AI... But at the end of the day, it is imperative that we take a sober and balanced view," he said.

"After all, concerns about bias, ethics, privacy and vulnerability are well-founded, deriving from pre-existing experiences. We also need to take particular precautions against the danger of losing trust in institutions."

Modi, Putin vow deeper India-Russia strategic ties

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated Russian President Vladimir Putin on his 73rd birthday, even as the two leaders vowed to further deepen the India-Russia special and privileged strategic partnership.

Modi dialled Putin to convey his best wishes for good health and success in all his endeavours.

"Spoke with my friend President Putin and conveyed warm birthday greetings and best wishes for his good health and long life. Deeply appreciate his personal commitment to deepening India–Russia ties over the years," the prime minister posted on X after speaking to Putin.

It was the fourth phone call between the two leaders since early August. Putin had also called up Modi on September 17 to greet him on his birthday.

PM Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin. PTI FILE

They reviewed the progress in the bilateral agenda and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Bilateral summit

Modi conveyed to Putin that he would look forward to welcoming the Russian President to India for the 23rd annual bilateral summit.

"Both sides expressed interest in developing the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia and briefly discussed preparations for the President of Russia's upcoming visit to India, to be made in December this year," a Moscow spokesperson said.

The Russian president is expected to visit India around December 5 to hold annual summit talks with Modi. The summit is expected to produce significant outcomes to further solidify bilateral strategic ties.

While preparations are underway for the high-profile visit, it is not yet clear whether the Russian President will come for a day-long trip or if he will be in India for two days.

Ahead of Putin's trip, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will travel to India next month to finalise the finer details of the presidential visit.

The two sides are also expected to hold a meeting under the framework of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M & MTC) before Putin's trip, people familiar with the matter said.

At the India-Russia annual summit, Modi and Putin are expected to deliberate on further expanding the "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" between the two countries, they said.

Mere presence at spot not unlawful assembly: SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: Mere presence at the scene does not render a person a member of an unlawful assembly unless it is established that he also shared its common object, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday as it laid down parameters for courts to safeguard innocent spectators or onlookers from being convicted merely on account of their presence.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan made the remarks while acquitting 12 convicts serving a life term for committing the offences of murder and unlawful assembly in a Bihar village in 1988.

The bench said where allegations are levelled against a large number of people, courts must carefully scrutinise the evidence, more so if the evidence on record is hazy.

Analysing section 149 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which says every member of an unlawful assembly is guilty of an offence committed in prosecution of a common object, the bench said the provision stipulates that if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly (of five or more persons) in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or if the members of the assembly know that the said offence was likely to be committed in prosecution of the common object, every person who, at the time of committing that offence, was a member of that assembly, will be guilty of that offence.

"Mere presence at the scene does not ipso facto render a person a member of the unlawful assembly, unless it is established that such an accused also shared its common object. A mere bystander, to whom no specific role is attributed, would not fall within the ambit of section 149 of the IPC," the bench said.

It said the prosecution has to establish, through reasonably direct or indirect circumstances, that the accused persons shared a common object of the unlawful assembly.

"The test to determine whether a person is a passive onlooker or an innocent bystander is the same as that applied to ascertain the existence of a common object," it said. The SC said the existence of a common object is to be inferred from the circumstances of each case.

It said the law on the point can be summarised to the effect that where there are general allegations against a large number of people, the court must be very careful before convicting all of them on vague or general evidence.

Frame rules for pedestrians safety: SC to states and UTs

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all the states and Union Territories to frame road safety rules within six months by regulating the movement of non-motorised vehicles and pedestrians in public spaces.

It directed them to frame such rules under Sections 138 (1A) and 210D of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. "We direct all the states and UTs to formulate rules under Section 138(1A) of the Motor Vehicles Act within a period of six months, ...for the purpose of regulating activities and access of non-mechanical propelled vehicles and pedestrians to public places and national highways.

HISTORIC FIND

Chennanur holds secrets to understand ancient south India

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Chennanur, a sleepy village in Uthangarai taluk of Krishnagiri district and a key archaeological site in Tamil Nadu, presents a continuous occupational history from the Microlithic to the Medieval Period, making it crucial to understand technological and socio-cultural shifts across the prehistoric and early historic period in present-day south India.

Artefacts unearthed from the site present clear evidence of the transition of phases and the accuracy in establishing the period of Chennanur has improved with the support of OSL and AMS dating techniques.

OSL dating for the site at the Microlithic Level (8450 BCE which is about 10,450 years ago) is not merely a pioneer in excavations in Tamil Nadu but might serve as a reference for future Microlithic studies in the state. AMS date received from Beta Analytical Laboratory, US -- 2220 BCE (4,245 years ago) also falls under the Neolithic period.

Though Tamil Nadu so far had five locations – Paiyampalli, Valasai, Chettimedu, Mayiladumparai, and Molapalayam – identified as Neolithic Sites, Chennanoor is a treasure trove with about 1 metre of Neolithic deposits being found along with heaps of potsherds. Archaeologists dug 11 trenches in two locations close to each other in the fields from where as many as 327 artefacts have been recovered from different cultural levels.

Microlithic, Neolithic, and Iron Age layers found in Chennanur have similarities with sites in South India like Maski, Hallur, and Sanganakallu in Karnataka, and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, suggesting exchanges of different kinds between them.

"Chennanur offers a rare window into long-term cultural development in the region. The antiquities, stratigraphy and features present a continuous occupational history from the Microlithic to the Medieval Period," S Paranthaman, and R Venkataguru Prassana, who excavated the site, wrote in a detailed report.

Paranthaman told *DH* they discovered six distinct cultural phases –Microlithic Age, Neolithic Age, Iron Age, Early Historic Period, Early Medieval Age, and Medieval Age – reflecting continuous human activity, adaptation and transformation across time.

This is the second site in TN after Pattaraiperumbudur near Chennai that was continuously habituated from Microlithic Age to Medieval Age, he said, adding that the earliest traces of settlement unearthed at this site belong to the Microlithic phase.

"We found stone tools from the Microlithic Age, and handmade pottery and burnished ware from Neolithic Age, iron tools and black and redware from Iron Age, Tamili letters in three shades from the Early Historic Period," he added.

CJI shoe attack: Preacher, YouTuber may face contempt case

Activist seeks A-G's nod to initiate contempt proceedings for inciting attack

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A letter has been sent to Attorney General R Venkataramani seeking permission to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against religious preacher Aniruddhacharya aka Aniruddh Ram Tiwari and YouTuber Ajeet Bharti, for allegedly inciting the attempted attack on Chief Justice of India B R Gavai.

Founder of Mission Ambedkar, Suraj Kumar Bauddh, shot off a letter to the A-G as mandated under the Contempt of Courts Act.

The letter referred to a viral video of Aniruddhacharya wherein he purportedly asked the CJI if he wanted his chest to be ripped open and a X post by Bharti making objectionable comments after the October 6 incident.

In a related development, lawyer Rakesh Kishore, who made a failed attempt to throw shoes on the CJI during the court proceedings, sought to justify his acts, claiming he was deeply hurt by remarks made in Lord Vishnu idol case last month.

"The CJI should think that when he is sitting on such a high constitutional post, he should understand meaning of 'Milord' and uphold its dignity. You go to Mauritius and say that the country will not run with a bulldozer," he said.

He said he was deeply hurt as on September 16, a PIL was filed by an individual in the Chief Justice's court. "Justice Gavai completely mocked it. Mockery in the sense that he said, "Go pray to the idol, ask the idol to restore its own head," 71-year-old Kishore said.

He claimed his actions were not driven by intoxication but by 'emotional distress'.

CJI's family condemns attack

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's mother Kamal Gavai has said people have the right to protest peacefully; however, taking law into their own hands can lead to anarchy, reports DHNS.

"I condemn the attack on the Chief Justice. The Indian Constitution grants equal rights to all, but some people are taking the law into their own hands and behaving in a manner that is disgraceful for the country and can spread anarchy. No one in this country has the right to do such a thing. I request everyone to raise whatever questions they have in a peaceful manner," she said.

Cabinet approves four railway projects worth Rs 24,634 cr

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday approved four multi-tracking railway projects covering 18 districts in Maharashtra, MP, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh with a cost of approximately Rs 24,634 crore.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Cabinet panel on Economic Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took this decision. The projects will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 894 km and help in providing seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services, the minister said.

These projects are the 3rd and 4th lines between Wardha and Bhusawal, covering 314 km in Maharashtra; an 84 km 4th line between Gondia and Dongargarh in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; 259 km 3rd and 4th lines between Vadodara and Ratlam in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh; and the 4th line covering the 84 km distance of Itarsi-Bhopal-Bina in Madhya Pradesh.

The entire project is expected to be completed by 2030-31.

"The project will enhance connectivity to approximately 3,633 villages, which have a population of about 85.84 lakh and two aspirational districts (Vidisha and Rajnandgaon)," the statement said.

Indian serving in Russian army surrendered: Ukraine

NEW DELHI, PTI

An Indian national fighting alongside the Russian military surrendered to Ukrainian forces, the Ukrainian military said on Tuesday.

The 63rd Mechanised Brigade of the Ukrainian military, on its Telegram channel, released a video of the Indian national who identified himself as Majoti Sahil Mohamed Hussein from Gujarat.

There was no word from Indian officials on the matter.

Official sources said the Indian embassy in Kyiv was ascertaining the veracity of the report.

It has not received any formal communication from Ukrainian authorities on the matter, they said.

The Ukrainian military said 22-year-old Hussein came to Russia to study at a university, The Kyiv Independent newspaper reported.

In the video, Hussein said he was sentenced to seven years in a Russian prison on drug-related charges and was offered the opportunity to sign a contract with the Russian military to avoid further punishment.

"I didn't want to stay in prison, so I signed a contract for the special military operation. But I wanted to get out of there," Hussein said.

After 16 days of training, Hussein was sent on his first combat mission on October 1, and it lasted three days.

Following a fight with his commander, he surrendered to Ukrainian troops.

"I came across a Ukrainian trench position about two to three kilometres away," he said.

"I immediately put down my rifle and said that I didn't want to fight. I needed help. I don't want to go back to Russia," he added.

The 63rd Mechanised Brigade in its Telegram post said Hussein studied in Russia, but was caught with drugs.

"In order not to go to prison, he went to war," the post said.

Adani's defence unit under investigation over import duty evasion on missile parts

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: Indian authorities are investigating Adani Enterprises' defence unit for evading import taxes on components used to make missiles, two government sources with direct knowledge said, marking the newest regulatory scrutiny of the group.

Adani Defence Systems and Technologies is one of the smaller businesses of the coal-to-airports conglomerate of billionaire Gautam Adani. It makes defence equipment like missiles, drones and small arms, mostly for Indian security forces.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence started investigating Adani Defence in March for evading tariffs of Rs 77 crore ($9 million) in importing some missile components by wrongly claiming that they were exempt from customs duties and tax, according to the two government sources and a document detailing the case that was reviewed by Reuters.

In a statement, the Adani Group said the directorate had "sought clarifications" on its imports based on their interpretation of the customs rules, and the "clarifications have been provided with supporting documents".

"The issue stands closed from our end," said an Adani spokesperson without elaborating or explaining if the company made any payments to settle the matter.

The alleged amount of tax evaded is significant, given it is more than 10% of Adani Defence's 2024-25 revenue of $76 million, and more than half its profit.

One government source said Adani executives during the investigation admitted to misclassification of the parts it imported, but did not elaborate. Adani did not comment on Reuters questions regarding the source's assertion.

Typically in such cases, companies are liable to pay the alleged duty evaded with a 100% penalty, which would total to $18 million in this case.

The investigation has not been previously reported.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

WE'RE THROWING A BANQUET TO RAISE AWARENESS!
FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE LILY-LIVERED LOON! AND THE HOOKED-BEAKED HERON!
WOW! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM!
SEE?! IT'S WORKING ALREADY!!!
BOY! THIS JOB SURE ISN'T BORING...AND IT'S NOT EVEN PET WEDDING SEASON YET!

Hagar The Horrible

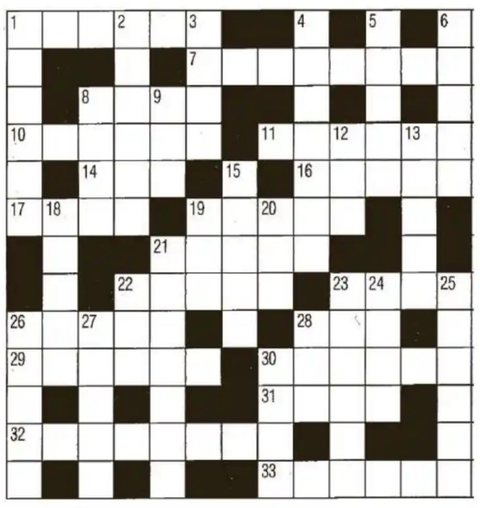
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

ONE OF THE WORST THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN TO A PERSON IS TO KNOW HIS OWN DESTINY
ONE SHOULD NEVER TRY TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE
I SAW YOU PEEK!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12262



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 One following you all the way to the Bank? (6)
7 A believer in togetherness (8)
8 Barsetshire cliques? (4)
10 Whence to be in no hurry to return to the UK? (6)
11 Being dosed before finishing breakfast is most strange! (6)
14 The one concerned in Cleopatra's passing? (3)
16 Passage to a place like Capri? (5)
17 Mead upsets her (4)
19 Four-legged source of a bleat? (5)
21 Like the point at which to look sharp? (5)
22 It's badly laundered (5)
23 Short flights from Kentish gardens? (4)
26 Start drinking surplus port (5)
28 Nourished at first by the FBI (3)
29 Man's team? (6)
30 Norman's sagacity? (6)
31 Social crawlers (4)
32 Depictions of wild gales at the mountain pass? (8)
33 Anyone should be able to grasp this (6)

DOWN
1 Immersed in something tasteful? (6)
2 A film of lubricant (6)
3 Right about us being in a rotten state (4)
4 A container historic in building (7)
5 Figures in a game (5)
6 Speak for the nation (5)
8 Crossed the water at a crawl? (4)
9 Something extremely gratuitous? (3)
12 Dry up, on stage, when there's not enough audience? (3)
13 No good market for bad plums! (5)
15 Takes steps to fiddle a case on the quiet (5)
18 Just the chap to be in a girl's embrace? (5)
19 Not up to weight (3)
20 From such a window, is there a sea view? (3)
21 Gaffer favouring a change of name? (7)
22 Joined in something nice (3)
23 Charlton, perhaps, seems not far from Isleworth (6)
24 The chances backers take (4)
25 A more than generous taste (6)
26 The equable way to go (5)
27 Evil landlord's house? (5)
28 A fishy propeller (3)
30 For which the water was hot (4)

ACROSS
1 Join up (6)
7 German shepherd (8)
8 Throw of dice (4)
10 Worldwide (6)
11 Aquatic reptile (6)
14 Label (3)
16 Goes up (5)
17 Way off (4)
19 Pompous girl (5)
21 Ward off (5)
22 Belong, conform (3,2)
23 Ticket money (4)
26 Unexpected extra benefit (5)
28 Writing tool (3)
29 Handsome youth (6)
30 Red, say (6)
31 Norse god (4)
32 Showing no mercy (8)
33 Took notice of (6)

DOWN
1 Mystery (6)
2 Weather line (6)
3 Above average height (4)
4 Not artificial (7)
5 Tips up (5)
6 Mountain system (5)
8 Duty list (4)
9 Insulate (3)
12 Raised edge (3)
13 One with leprosy (5)
15 Quick (5)
18 Deluge (5)
19 Encountered (3)
20 Lair (3)
21 Ludicrous (7)
22 Gaiety, merriment (3)
23 Of cats (6)
24 Soon (4)
25 Deserved (6)
26 Iraqi port (5)
27 Direction (5)
28 Seedcase (3)
30 Bludgeon (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12261

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Rhyme 6, Faith 9, Arrival 10, Swore 11, Clare 12, Catty 13, Pitiful 15, Pat 17, Lion 18, Ro-tar-y 19, Simon 20, In-mate 22, Fine 24, Nay 25, Re-Vi-sed 26, Snail 27, CL-out 28, Slate 29, Rever-ed 30, Ad-d-ed 31, As-hen.
DOWN: 2, Hawaii 3, Martin 4, Ere 5, Rival 6, F-action 7, A-lly 8, Tar-tar 12, Cut-i.e. 13, Plain 14,Tommy 15, P-aris 16,Typed 18, Rowel 19, Stun-Ted 21, Nailed 22, Fields 23, Nettle 25, Rides 26, Sure 28, Sea.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Amass 6,Topaz 9,Tankard 10, Use up 11, Edict 12, Atlas 13, Suicide 15, And 17, Memo 18, Sliver 19, Slate 20, Relate 22, Lion 24,Tay 25, Residue 26, Cedar 27, Stoop 28, State 29, Alcohol 30, Brute 31, Bends.
DOWN: 2, Mosque 3, Stucco 4, Sap 5, Skate 6,Treacle 7, Odds 8, Arcane 12, Addle 13, Smart 14, Imply 15, Avoid 16, Drone 18, Steer 19, Steeple 21, Easter 22, Little 23, Ousted 25, Rayon 26, Coat 28, Sob.

◆SU-DO-KU-6720◆

		4			3		5	
5				9	6			
7	6							9
	7			2			8	
	1	8	6		4	7	2	
	3			8			1	
3							9	2
			3	5				1
	4		9			5		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6719

1	6	5	4	2	3	9	8	7
8	4	9	7	6	5	1	3	2
3	2	7	8	9	1	6	5	4
7	3	8	6	5	4	2	1	9
5	1	4	2	3	9	8	7	6
6	9	2	1	7	8	5	4	3
4	7	6	5	1	2	3	9	8
9	8	1	3	4	6	7	2	5
2	5	3	9	8	7	4	6	1

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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B3 Y4 R1 R1 E1 I1 B3	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1 V4 O1 E1 T1 G2 L1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
O1 N1 Y4 C3 M3 E1 O1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
B3 A1 E1 L1 G2 R1 D2	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 230-240
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

R1 U1 N1 A1 W4 A1 Y4	RACK 1 =	63
A1 C3 T1 I1 N1 O1 N1	RACK 2 =	62
H4 A1 M3 L1 E1 T1	RACK 3 =	33
A1 N1 I1 M3 A1 L1	RACK 4 =	8
PAR SCORE 110-120	JUDD'S TOTAL	166

HITORI-3174

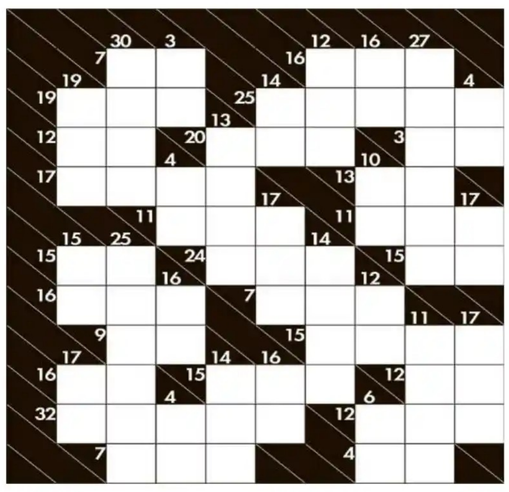
3	3	7	3	8	1	6	3
3	2	2	4	7	6	3	1
4	8	2	3	6	2	5	2
3	7	3	6	5	4	2	8
6	4	2	8	2	2	7	5
7	3	1	7	4	6	2	2
2	6	4	1	2	5	8	7
2	5	8	3	3	2	4	2

SOLUTION TO 3173

4	5	8	■	7	3	■	2
■	3	■	4	1	6	8	7
8	1	5	3	■	7	4	■
2	■	4	6	8	■	3	1
7	2	■	1	5	4	■	6
1	7	6	■	2	■	5	8
3	■	7	2	■	8	1	4
■	8	1	■	3	2	7	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3174



SOLUTION TO 3173

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3699

■							5	■
	9		7		2		■	
		■	5			■	1	
			■		■			1
			6	■				3
4	3		■	9	7			6
		■				2	3	5
3				8		4	■	
7			2					■

SOLUTION TO 3698

9	2	1	4	8	6	5	7	3
6	4	7	5	3	2	1	9	8
8	3	5	9	1	7	2	6	4
7	8	6	3	4	5	9	2	1
2	1	4	7	6	9	3	8	5
3	5	9	1	2	8	6	4	7
1	6	8	2	5	4	7	3	9
5	7	2	8	9	3	4	1	6
4	9	3	6	7	1	8	5	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

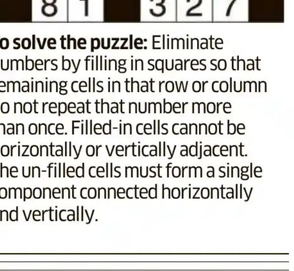
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYUFL

URGDO

DSIEBE

ZYNZSA


You all must really like it here.
It's a hot spot! We just like hanging out here.
It's nine o'clock on a Saturday The regular crowd shuffles in...
3/31
THE PUB WAS VERY POPULAR WITH GECKOS, IGUANAS, MONITORS AND OTHER ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: AROMA CHURN ABACUS BELONG
Answer: The bird who considered herself in charge of the roosting birds was the — BRANCH MANAGER

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Trio wins Nobel Physics for research on quantum tunnelling

Their work lays the foundation for future computing

STOCKHOLM, AP/PTI

John Clarke, Michel H Devoret and John M Martinis won the Nobel Prize in Physics on Tuesday for their research on quantum tunnelling — an area once considered obscure but now crucial to the advancement of digital technology.

One of the winners said that quantum mechanics research already has wound up in our everyday communications. Speaking from his cellphone, Clarke said: "One of the underlying reasons that cellphones work is because of all this work."

Clarke, 83, conducted his research at the University of California, Berkeley; Martinis, 67, at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and Devoret, 72, is at Yale and also at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Clarke, who spearheaded the research team, told The Associated Press he was "pleased to receive this prize" alongside his two colleagues.

Martinis' wife, Jean, told Associated Press reporters who called at his home some two-and-a-half hours after the announcement that he was still asleep and did not yet know. She said in the past they had stayed up on the night of the physics award, but at some point they decided that sleep was more important.

The prize winning research in the mid-1980s took the sub-atomic "weirdness of quantum mechanics" and found how those tiny interactions can have real world applications on the human scale level, said Jonathan Bagger, CEO of the American Physical Society. They have the potential to supercharge computing and communications.

The 100-year-old field of quantum mechanics deals with the seemingly impossible subatomic world where switches can be on-and-off at the same time and parts of atoms tunnel through what seems like impenetrable barriers.

What the three physicists did "is taking the scale of something that we can't see, we can't touch, we can't feel and bringing it up to the scale of something recognisable and make it something you can build upon," said Physics Today editor-in-chief Richard Fitzgerald, who in the 1990s worked in the field on a competitors' group.

Why this work matters

The work is a crucial building block in the fast-developing world of quantum mechanics.

"Quantum computers is one very sort of obvious use, but they're also can be used for quantum sensors, so to be able to make very sensitive measurements of, for example, magnetic fields, and perhaps also for cryptography, so to encode information so it cannot be easily listened to by a third party," Mark Pearce, a professor of astrophysics and Nobel Physics Committee member, said.

Quantum computing when fully achieved would be a large leap from what we now know, scientists said. Clarke said the research "in some ways is the basis of quantum computing. Exactly at this moment where this fits in is not entirely clear to me."

Both Bagger and Fitzgerald said it's a bit of a stretch to say our everyday cellphones now use the breakthrough made by Clarke and colleagues.

Real chance to end Gaza war: Trump

Hamas seeks US 'guarantees' as Israel marks war anniversary

JERUSALEM/CAIRO, AFP/REUTERS

US President Donald Trump voiced optimism that there was a "real chance" to end the war in Gaza, as Israel marked the second anniversary of the October 7 attack on Tuesday.

Indirect negotiations between Israeli and Hamas representatives are being held in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh, based on a 20-point plan proposed by Trump last month. "There's a real chance that we could do something," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, adding that US negotiators were also involved in the talks.

"I think there's a possibility that we could have peace in the Middle East. It's something even beyond the Gaza situation. We want a release of the hostages immediately," he said.

Trump added that the United States would do "everything possible to make sure everyone adheres to the deal" if Hamas and Israel agree on a ceasefire. The talks coincided with Israel's commemoration of the second anniversary of Hamas's October 7 attack, which triggered the ongoing war. Two years ago to the day, at the close of the Jewish festival of Sukkot, Hamas-led militants launched the deadliest attack on Israel in the country's history, sparking a massive retaliatory offensive in Gaza.

The assault resulted in the deaths of 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Militants also took 251 people hostage into Gaza, of whom 47 remain captive, including 25 whom the Israeli military says are dead.

On Tuesday, senior Hamas official Fawzi Barhoum called the October 7 attack a "historic response" to Israel's attempt to "eradicate the Palestinian cause." Hamas's top negotiator Khalil El-Hayya, who is in Cairo for indirect talks with Israel, said that the group "wants guarantees from US President Trump and the sponsor countries that the war will end once and for all."

"We do not trust the occupation, not even for a second," he said. "Therefore, we want real guarantees," he added, accusing Israel of violating two ceasefires in the current conflict.

TALKS IN EGYPT

- Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani will attend the Gaza peace talks in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh on Wednesday.
- US will be represented by its Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law and former Middle East adviser Jared Kushner.

People lift a banner and portraits of Israelis held hostage in the Gaza Strip by Hamas since 2023, during a rally in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. AFP

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer poses for a photo with his business delegation before departing from London's Heathrow Airport on Tuesday. AP/PTI

Modi, Starmer to meet industry experts, innovators in Mumbai

They will also review progress of 'Vision 2035' initiatives

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Amid the turbulence in the global economic order in the wake of the US President Donald Trump's tariffs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would meet British Premier Sir Keir Starmer in Mumbai on Thursday, taking ahead the 'Vision 2035'.

During the two-day visit, the two PMs will take stock of progress in diverse aspects of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in line with 'Vision 2035', a 10-year Roadmap of programmes in key areas of trade and investment, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate and energy, health, education and people-to-people relations.

The leaders will also engage with industry experts, policymakers and innovators. The two countries endorsed the new India-UK Vision 2035 during Modi's visit to London in July.

In the Mumbai leg, the two leaders will engage with industry leaders on opportunities presented by the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. "The visit will build on the momentum and substance generated by the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the UK on 23–24 July 2025. It will provide a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the shared vision of India and the United Kingdom to build a forward-looking partnership," according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Modi and Starmer will also participate in the 6th edition of the Global Fintech Fest and deliver keynote addresses on the occasion. The event will bring together innovators, policymakers, central bankers, regulators, investors, academicians, and industry leaders from around the world.

The conference's central theme, 'Empowering Finance for a Better World' — Powered by AI, Augmented Intelligence, Innovation, and Inclusion, highlights the convergence of technology and human insight in shaping an ethical and sustainable financial future.

This year's edition is expected to attract over 1,00,000 participants from more than 75 countries, making it one of the world's largest fintech gatherings. Among the participating international institutions are renowned regulators such as the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Deutsche Bundesbank of Germany, Banque de France, and the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority.

Man held over fatal shooting of Indian student in US

HOUSTON, PTI: A 23-year-old Texas man has been arrested over the murder of an Indian student at a Fort Worth gas station on Friday night, leaving the local Indian-American community shocked and fearful.

The suspect allegedly shot Chandrashekar Pole, 28, while he was working a part-time shift, then fled the scene before being apprehended by officers, police said.

The suspect, identified as Richard Florez from North Richland Hills, allegedly shot Chandrashekar at a gas station on Eastchase Parkway.

'Bombs its own people': India slams Pakistan at UNSC

UNITED NATIONS, PTI

In a strong retort against Pakistan in the UN Security Council, India on Monday described its neighbour as a country that "bombs its own people" and conducts "systematic genocide".

In a strong retort against Pakistan in the UNSC, India on Monday described its neighbour as a country that "bombs its own people" and conducts "systematic genocide".

During his remarks to the UNSC open debate on "Women, Peace and Security", India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said Pakistan conducted Operation Searchlight in 1971 and sanctioned a systematic campaign of genocidal mass rape of 400,000 women citizens by its own army. "Every year, we are unfortunately fated to listen to the delusional tirade of Pakistan against my country, especially on Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian territory they covet," the Indian envoy said.

"A country that bombs its own people, conducts systematic genocide, can only attempt to distract the world with misdirection and hyperbole," Harish said. The world sees through Pakistan's propaganda, he added. On March 25, 1971, the Pakistani army had launched a brutal crackdown involving widespread civilian killings throughout East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) code-named 'Operation Searchlight'.

Harish told the council meeting chaired by Russia that India's record on the "women, peace and security" agenda is unblemished and unscathed.

India's strong response in the council came after Pakistan, in its statement, raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

"To exclude Kashmiri women from the Women, Peace and Security agenda erases its legitimacy and undermines its universality," the Pakistani delegate said.

Harish, in his remarks, also said that India remains unwavering in its commitment to the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda and stands ready to share its expertise with partners, particularly those in the Global South, fostering collective solutions to shared challenges.

He highlighted India's consistent contribution to UN peacekeeping as an expression of its commitment to global peace.

"What distinguishes India's peacekeeping legacy is not merely the scale of our contribution, but our pioneering recognition of women as indispensable agents of peace," he said.

Renewables overtake coal in global power generation

LONDON, AP/PTI: Worldwide solar and wind power generation has outpaced electricity demand this year, and for the first time on record, renewable energies combined have generated more power than coal, according to a new analysis.

Global solar generation grew by a record 31% in the first half of the year, while wind generation rose by 7.7%, according to the report by the energy think tank Ember, released just after midnight on Tuesday, London time. Solar and wind generation together increased by more than 400 terawatt hours, exceeding the overall rise in global electricity demand during the same period.

The findings suggest it is possible for the world to wean itself off polluting sources of power — even as electricity demand surges — with continued investment in renewables such as solar, wind, hydropower, bioenergy and geothermal energy. "That means that they can keep pace with the growing appetite for electricity worldwide," said Malgorzata Wiatros-Motyka, senior electricity analyst at Ember and lead author of the study.

At the same time, total fossil fuel generation dropped slightly, by less than 1 per cent. "The fall overall of fossil may be small, but it is significant," said Wiatros-Motyka.

Chinese weapons performed exceptionally well during conflict with India: Pak

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has claimed that Chinese weapon systems deployed during the four-day military conflict with India in May performed "exceptionally well".

Dawn on Tuesday reported that Chaudhry, who is Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media arm of the armed forces, made the comments in an interview with Bloomberg, which was organised last week and published on Monday.

"Of course, lately, recent Chinese platforms, they've demonstrated exceptionally well," Chaudhry reportedly said. "We are open to all sorts of technology," he added.

He also refuted India's assertion that Pakistan lost at least a dozen military aircraft during the conflict. "Pakistan has never tried to play with figures and facts," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had said that Pakistan's air force used Chinese J-10C jets during the May conflict.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Argentina President Javier Milei sings during the launch of his new book, "The Making of the Miracle," at the Movistar Arena in Buenos Aires on Monday. AFP

FIR registered against deposed Nepal PM Oli, his home minister

Nepal's youth-led Gen-Z group, which organised anti-government protests last month, on Tuesday registered an FIR against deposed prime minister K P Sharma Oli and then home minister Ramesh Lekhak, seeking their criminal accountability for the deaths during the demonstrations, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

The Kathmandu District Police Circle Spokesperson, Superintendent of Police Pawan Bhattarai, confirmed that the FIR was registered at the Kathmandu District Police Office, Bhadrakali, against UML chairman Oli and Nepali Congress leader Lekhak. He said that since a probe commission to investigate the matter has already been constituted, the police have forwarded the FIR to the high-level Judicial Investigation Commission headed by Justice Gauri Bahadur Karki. "The FIR registered by the Gen-Z youths with the police will establish their criminal accountability and pave the way for investigation of the crime committed on 8 and 9 September," said senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi.

KP Sharma Oli

Houthis detain 9 more UN staff

Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen have detained nine employees of the United Nations as part of a long-running crackdown on the organisation, AP/PTI reports from Cairo.

The detentions bring the number of detained UN workers in Houthi-held territories in Yemen to 53 since 2021, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement late Monday. No details about the circumstances or timing of the latest detentions were given. Dujarric said the crackdown has impeded "the UN's ability to operate in Yemen and to deliver critical assistance" to the local population in the Arab world's poorest country.

Models present creations by Matthieu Blazy during the Paris Fashion Week in France on Monday. REUTERS

Security up for Sikh pilgrims in Pak

Pakistani authorities have made foolproof security arrangements for Sikh pilgrims who will visit the country to celebrate the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev next month, PTI reports from Lahore.

A meeting was held at the Home Department of the Punjab government on Tuesday to review the arrangements. The meeting was attended by the first Sikh minister of Punjab and President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Evacuee Trust Property Board Chairman Sajid Mahmood Chauhan, Secretary Home Department, Punjab, Ahmad Javed Qazi and senior police officers.

Putin celebrates 73rd birthday

Vladimir Putin, the longest-serving President of Russia, turned 73 on Tuesday and many of his supporters are lauding his role in transforming the country, PTI reports from Moscow.

"Putin stopped further fragmentation of Russia and put it back on its historical path," Kremlin envoy on Ukraine Vladimir Medinsky wrote on his Telegram channel. He said that Putin assumed office on the eve of 2000 at a time when the country was going through the trauma of the Soviet Union's collapse and the threat of fragmentation of the Russian Federation. Similar sentiments were expressed by Speaker of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin, Governor of Moscow region Andrei Vorobyov and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin as Putin is receiving birthday wishes from world leaders.

Actress Gillian Anderson attends the world premiere of Disney's "Tron: Ares" at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, on Monday. AFP

IN BRIEF

(L-R) Saviynt Global CISO, Akshay Sivananda and SVP and Managing Director, India & SAARC, Nitin Varma.

Saviynt opens largest global innovation hub in Bengaluru

AI-based identity security and governance solutions firm Saviynt on Tuesday announced the opening of its largest global innovation hub in Bengaluru. The new 62,000 sq. ft. office location in Bengaluru will house more than 650 employees, and the new hub will serve as a strategic centre for advancing AI-led research, development, and innovation in identity security.

According to Grand View Research, the Identity & Access Management (IAM) market in India was valued at $184.8 million in 2023, and is projected to reach $583.9 million by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 17.9% from 2024 to 2030.

Paul Zolfaghari, president of Saviynt, said that India is not just its largest international office, but is the global engine of innovation. "With this new hub, we are not only expanding our footprint but also shaping the future of identity security by combining India's deep talent pool with AI-driven product innovation. From Bengaluru, our teams are building solutions that protect Fortune 500 enterprises worldwide."

Nitin Varma, SVP and managing director, India & SAARC, Saviynt, added, "India is not just where we build, it's where we lead from."

Lalithaa Jewellery gets Sebi nod for Rs 1,700 cr IPO

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chennai-based Lalithaa Jewellery Mart has received final observation from the capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), to raise Rs 1,700 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

The company had filed its IPO papers with Sebi on Monday. The IPO consists of a fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 1,200 crore and an offer-for-sale of shares worth Rs 500 crore by its promoter Kiran Kumar.

The proceeds from the fresh issue to the extent of Rs 1,014.50 crore will be utilised for funding of capital expenditure to set up new stores in India; and general corporate purposes.

Lalithaa Jewellery Mart opened its first store in 1985 in T Nagar locality of Chennai which is a hub for silk and jewellery retail outlets.

World Bank raises India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5%

US tariffs to drag growth to 6.3% in 2026-27

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The World Bank on Tuesday raised India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to 6.5% from its earlier estimate of 6.3% announced in June, but trimmed 2026-27 projection by 20 basis points citing steeper-than-expected US tariffs.

In its biannual South Asia Development update, the World Bank noted that "India is expected to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy, underpinned by continued strength in consumption growth."

"Domestic conditions, particularly agricultural output and rural wage growth, have been better than expected. The government's reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST)—reducing the number of tax brackets and simplifying compliance—are expected to support activity," it said.

However, the multilateral lender cautioned that the higher-than-expected tariffs imposed by the US President Donald Trump administration would hit India's growth.

"India was initially expected to face lower US tariffs than its competitors in April, but by the end of August, it was subject to significantly higher duties," the report noted.

For the financial year 2026-27, the World Bank has lowered India's growth projection to 6.3% from its earlier estimate of 6.5% announced in June. The World Bank said that higher US tariffs would weigh on India's exports.

The World Bank's upgrade on India's growth projection for the current financial year comes after better-than-expected numbers for April-June quarter. India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth accelerated to 7.8% in the quarter ended June 30, as per the latest official data.

Several agencies have revised their projections on India's GDP growth following the better-than-expected Q1 data and rollout of GST rate rationalisation, which is expected to significantly boost consumption.

World Bank Group entrance.

Last week, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised its projection upward from 6.5% to 6.8%. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pegged India's GDP growth projection at 6.5% for both the current financial year and 2026-27.

According to the World Bank, the US tariff will drag down the average growth of South Asia to 5.8% in 2026 from the projected 6.6% in 2025. India accounts for nearly 70% of South Asia's total economic output.

Bangladesh is projected to grow at 4.8% in 2025-26 and 6.3% in 2026-27; Nepal at 2.1% and 4.7%; Sri Lanka at 3.5% and 3.1%; Bhutan at 7.3% and 6.1%; and the Maldives at 3.9% and 4%, respectively.

The World Bank noted that India is expected to be the world's fastest-growing source of energy demand in the medium term and surpass China to become the single largest source of energy demand by 2050.

Underlining the regional disparity, the World Bank noted; "There are two economies in South Asia— There are two economies in South Asia—a less productive traditional one and a dynamic, a less productive traditional one and a dynamic modern one. Most people work in the first one, but South Asia will better achieve its ambitions if more shift to the second one. Lowering tariffs and leveraging artificial intelligence can help."

WTO downgrades global trade growth forecast to 0.5% for next year

GENEVA, REUTERS: The World Trade Organization sharply lowered its 2026 forecast for global merchandise trade volume growth to 0.5% on Tuesday, citing expected delayed impacts from U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs.

It marks a significant revision down from its previous estimate in August of 1.8% growth.

"The outlook for next year is bleaker ... I am very concerned," Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told reporters in Geneva.

However, she said the world trading system is showing resilience, with the rules-based multilateral system providing some stability amid trade turmoil.

For 2025, the WTO upgraded its forecast for global trade volume growth to2.4%, from 0.9% previously, driven primarily by the front-loading of imports into the United States ahead of tariff hikes and growth in the trade of AI-related goods. It is still below the 2.8% growth seen in 2024.

NBFCs, realty sectors to see double-digit salary rise in 2026

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Real estate sector and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are likely to witness 10.9% (10.5% actual salary increase in 2025) and 10% (9.8%) salary increase respectively in 2026- the highest increase compared to other sectors such as banking, and technology consulting & services, which will see the lowest salary increases next year at 8.6% and 6.8%, respectively.

Aon, a global professional services firm, projected in its study that salary increases are higher in growth-led and skill-scarce sectors. It stated that salaries in India are expected to increase by 9% in 2026, a slight rise from the actual 8.9% salary growth in 2025. This overall salary increase encompasses salary adjustments, performance-based increments, and other relevant factors.

Interestingly, this year's salary increase (2025) is among the lowest since 2010, but the impact on the real wage growth is lower because of easing inflation.

It said that India will sustain robust growth amid global headwinds and that two out of five companies are anticipating a top-line growth of over 10%.

"Among major world economies and leading Asian economies, India stands out with the highest salary increases," said Roopank Chaudhary, Partner and Rewards Consulting Leader, Talent Solutions for India at Aon.

The study also showed that overall attrition rates have declined to 17.1% in 2025, down from 17.7% in 2024 and 18.7% in 2023. This revealed that organisations are experiencing improved employee retention. "Recent tax reforms are transforming India's business landscape by incentivising demand and enabling domestic consumption, especially for consumer goods and automotive sectors," said Amit Kumar Otwani, associate partner, Talent Solutions for India at Aon.

IT flexi staffing grows 5.5% sequentially

There is a strong revival in specialised technology demand as the IT flexi staffing industry recorded a 5.5% sequential growth in Q1FY2026 (April-June 2025). The Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), the apex industry body representing the manpower outsourcing sector, on Tuesday launched the Flexi Staffing Industry Employment Growth Report for Q1 FY2026. It said the overall flexi staffing industry witnessed a QoQ growth at 1.5% (Q1 FY26 vs Q4 FY25). However, it dropped significantly on the YoY at a 6.1% growth rate.

Tata Trusts' trustees clash over board appointments

NEW DELHI, PTI

Tata Trusts, which exerts decisive influence over India's most valuable conglomerate through its about 66% stake of Tata Sons, finds itself in the midst of infighting among its trustees over board appointment and governance issues.

Sources said the Trusts is said to be vertically split with one section aligned with Noel Tata, who was appointed chairman of the Trusts following the death of Ratan Tata. The other grouping of four trustees is led by Mehli Mistry, who has ties with the extended Shapoorji Pallonji family, which owns about 18.37% of Tata Sons.

Mehli reportedly feels he has been kept out of the loop on key matters.

Sources said the flashpoint is said to be board seats at Tata Sons, which controls the 156-year-old group that spans around 400 companies, including 30 listed firms.

The dispute has its roots in a meeting of six trustees of the Tata Trusts, the umbrella group representing several charitable trusts, including the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sri Ratan Tata Trust.

The meeting on September 11 was convened to consider the reappointment of former defence secretary Vijay Singh as a nominee director on the Tata Sons board.

There are seven trustees of the Tata Trusts, including Singh. Singh did not attend the September 11 meeting as his nomination was on the agenda.

Tata Trusts Chairman, Noel Tata.

Following the death of Ratan Tata in October 2024, Tata Trusts introduced a policy requiring annual reappointment of nominee directors on the Tata Sons board once they turn 75. At the September 11 meeting, the reappointment of 77-year-old Vijay Singh - a director since 2012 and trustee since 2018 - was proposed by Trusts Chairman Noel Tata and Venu Srinivasan (chairman emeritus of TVS Group).

However, the four other trustees - Mehli Mistry, Pramit Jhaveri, Jehangir HC Jehangir, and Darius Khambata - opposed the move, leading to the resolution's rejection.

Following the rejection, the four trustees sought to nominate Mehli Mistry to the Tata Sons board, but Noel Tata and Venu Srinivasan opposed the move, emphasising the need for a transparent process aligned with Tata's values. Subsequently, Vijay Singh voluntarily resigned from the Tata Sons board.

Another meeting of the Board of Tata Trusts is scheduled for October 10, but the agenda is not known.

When contacted, Tata Trusts, Tata Sons and Venu Srinivasan declined to comment.

Comments from Mehli Mistry could not be obtained as calls and messages remained unanswered.

Sources said that with the infighting among trustees of Tata Trusts threatening to impact the functioning of the over USD 180 billion conglomerate, the intervention of the government has become necessary.

"The primary question in front of the government, considering how significant and important the Tata Group is to the country's economy, is whether it can let an individual take control of it. The infighting among trustees of Tata Trusts has an impact on Tata Sons," a source said.

The development comes at a time when the deadline set by the RBI for public listing of Tata Sons, classified as an upper-layer shadow bank, expired on September 30, although the company has applied for "for voluntary surrender of the Certificate of Registration as a CIC (Core Investment Company) and to continue as an 'unregistered CIC'. The application is under examination by the RBI. Some within the group feel that the four trustees led by Mehli Mistry have been trying to undermine Noel Tata's leadership in Tata Trusts.

Retail auto sales get tax, festival boost in September

REUTERS: Dealers' auto sales grew 5.2% year-on-year in September, with upbeat growth across two-wheelers and passenger vehicles, as tax cuts boosted demand during the festive season, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA)said on Tuesday.

While sales were muted in the first three weeks of September, they surged after September 22, when the revised goods and services tax rates took effect, the auto dealers association said.

Two-wheeler sales climbed 6.5% from a year earlier, while passenger vehicle sales grew 5.8%.

Dealers posted record high sales during the nine-day Navratri festival, the association said, with a 34% year-on-year jump during the period, as a wave of new customers entered showrooms and existing ones upgraded their vehicles, taking advantage of lower taxes and festive schemes.

The auto dealers body expects an above-normal monsoon, strong harvest, and steady lending rates to boost purchasing power of consumers, driving demand.

It also expects "peak sales" during the Diwali festival in October, when Indians typically tend to make high-value purchases.

Jaguar Land Rover to restart some manufacturing after six-week shutdown

LONDON, REUTERS: Britain's biggest carmaker, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), said on Tuesday some factories would restart manufacturing on Wednesday after a nearly six week shutdown following a cyber attack, one of the country's most disruptive and high-profile hacks.

JLR's factory in Solihull, Britain.

To try to help smaller parts suppliers who have been pushed to the brink after weeks without business, JLR also announced it would provide them with up-front cash during the production restart phase.

The luxury carmaker, owned by India's Tata Motors , has three factories in Britain, which together produce about 1,000 cars per day, and economists had warned of the impact of a prolonged shutdown on the country's manufacturing output.

JLR said its engines and battery units would restart work on Wednesday, as well as parts of its vehicle production plant including its body shop and paint shop, meaning the return of some of its 33,000 staff to work after weeks at home. Production lines for the Range Rover and Range Rover Sport vehicles at its main factory in Solihull will start later this week, the company added.

Suppliers of parts used in the company's just-in-time production lines will now be paid shortly after the point of order, JLR said, compared to a previous 60-days post invoice arrangement, helping to stabilise the supply chain amid worries that some smaller businesses could go bust.

"Our suppliers are central to our success, and today we are launching a new financing arrangement that will enable us to pay our suppliers early, using the strength of our balance sheet to support their cashflows," JLR's chief executive Adrian Mardell said.

FM flags fake videos of her circulating to mislead citizens

FM Nirmala Sitharaman at the 'Global Fintech Fest 2025', in Mumbai, on Tuesday. PHOTO: PTI

Foreign currency settlement system launched at GIFT City

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday expressed concern over the growing misuse of artificial intelligence and revealed that she has come across several deepfake videos of her circulating online to mislead common people.

"I am not personalising it but I can say I have seen several deepfake videos of myself being circulated online, manipulated to mislead citizens," Sitharaman said at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai.

The Finance Minister called for collaboration among fintech innovators, investors and regulators to build a secure, inclusive and resilient tech system. "Every part of the ecosystem—regulators, fintechs, startups, and citizens—must act with shared purpose and mutual trust," she urged,

"Undoubtedly, artificial intelligence is transforming finance, transforming governance and also everyday life. But as we harness its powers, we must remain conscious that technology must always serve humanity. Even as AI opens extraordinary possibilities, we must confront its darker side," she said.

"Every part of the ecosystem—regulators, fintechs, startups, and citizens—must act with shared purpose and mutual trust," she added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Keir Starmer are scheduled to speak at the event on Thursday, which has been dubbed at the world's largest financial technology event. It has been organised jointly by the Payments Council of India (PCI), the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC).

On the first day of the three-day event, Sitharaman launched the foreign currency settlement system in Gujarat's GIFT City. The initiative aims to boost international trade, attract investments, and improve ease of doing business by enabling real-time settlement of foreign currency transactions.

With the launch of the foreign currency settlement system (FCSS) India has joined a select group of global financial hubs such as Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Manila that have local foreign currency settlement infrastructure.

The system will initially process transactions in US dollars. Settlement in other currencies will be enabled later. Standard Chartered Bank has been selected as the settlement bank.

Stall at the AeroDefCon 2025, organised by Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. DH PHOTO

TN eyes Rs 75K cr investment inflow in defence

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday said the state has set a target of attracting investments to the tune of Rs 75,000 crore in the aerospace and defence sectors by 2032. He said aerospace, defence, and shipbuilding will be some of the key pillars of the state's ambition to become a $1 trillion economy by 2030 - a goal set by him after taking over as Chief Minister in May 2021.

Inaugurating AeroDefCon 2025, a three-day international conference on the aerospace and defence sector, here, Stalin said the state has already secured Rs 23,000 crore investments in the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor.

Terming the corridor as a turning point for the development of this sector in the state, Stalin said he wanted Tamil Nadu to emerge as the country's manufacturing hub in the defence industry.

"From the production of high-quality jet engine components to drone manufacturing, various activities are set to take place. This also includes manufacturing units related to emerging space technology. The Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor Vision Plan is not just a concept but has solidified Tamil Nadu's place in the future of India's defence sector," he said.

He also listed projects that have been initiated like a Defence Industrial Park being established over 360 acres in Coimbatore, and an aerospace park with direct runway access for aircraft repair, maintenance, and integration in Sulur.

Predictive AI platform Intangles raises $30 mn in Series B round

BENGALURU, DHNS: Physics-enabled Predictive AI startup Intangles has raised $30 million in a Series B round, led by Avataar Venture Partners, along with follow-on investments from Baring India Private Equity and Cactus Partners. The capital will accelerate global deployment of Intangles' Predictive AI systems. Through the use of its proprietary datasets, Intangles has created an AI platform for vehicles called Inroute.

"This positions Intangles to tap into the $60 billion+ global fleet telematics and connected vehicle services market and expand into the $200 billion+ opportunity in predictive maintenance and digital twin-driven analytics across commercial vehicles, construction equipment, and off-highway sectors," the firm said.

Intangles has expanded its global footprint to North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. The company today manages over 400,000 vehicles across industries such as Long Haul, Transit and Construction & Mining segments, and plans for an IPO in the next few years.

"Our customers do not have the luxury of hindsight. Their operations demand clarity in the moment. We are building Physics-based Foundational AI architecture that interprets real-world physical systems, learns as conditions evolve, and delivers foresight where it has the greatest operational consequence at the edge," said Anup Patil, Co-founder and CEO of Intangles. "This investment strengthens our ability to expand that architecture across geographies and industries that are grappling with increasing volatility and complexity," he added.

Another startup, Contrails AI, also announced on Tuesday that it raised $1 million in a pre-seed round, led by Huddle Ventures and IAN Group. Founded by Digvijay Singh (AI Researcher and Product Leader) and Amitabh Kumar (Global Trust & Safety Practitioner), Contrails AI is reimagining how platforms manage risk and govern GenAI content.

Amitabh Kumar, co-founder, said, "Trust & safety is no longer a back-office concern; it has become a boardroom priority. At Contrails AI, we translate complex safety challenges into strategic advantages, spanning across policy, content moderation, and AI guardrailing."

IN BRIEF

Magadi CA emerge champions

▸ Aayat Rahim Khan scored a fifty (61) while team-mates Yeshwin Ramesh (3/23) and Akarsh M (3/34) returned with three-fors as Magadi Cricket Academy beat Play Smart Cricket Academy by two runs in the AVR-Arjuna Cup U-14 tournament final at the Sattva Global City ground on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Brief scores: Magadi Cricket Academy: 201 all out in 29.1 overs (Aayat Rahim Khan 61, Shishir Aravind 47, Jagan TP 33, Sachit Galatagi 30; Jaspreeth 3-36, Atharv Karadi 3-40) bt Play Smart Cricket Academy: 199/8 in 30 overs (Gagan Yashpal 65, Atharv Karadi 50; Yeshwin Ramesh 3-23, Akarsh M 3-34)

Indian trio exits NY squash event

▸ India's Velavan Senthilkumar, Veer Chotrani and Ramit Tandon lost their pre-quarterfinal matches to bow out of the Open Squash Classic, a USD 74,000 PSA bronze event, in New York, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Reigning national champion and world No. 45 Senthilkumar lost to Mexican fourth seed Leonel Cardenas 7-11, 6-11, 4-11 while eighth seed Tandon went down to Adrian Waller of England 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11 on Monday.

Chotrani fell to French second seed Victor Crouin 1-11, 8-11, 5-11.

WFI suspends Sehrawat

▸ The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Tuesday suspended Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat from all wrestling-related activities for one year after he failed to make weight at the Senior World Championships, reports PTI from New Delhi

The 22-year-old Aman, one of India's top medal hopes in the men's freestyle 57kg category, was disqualified from the Worlds for exceeding the weight limit by 1.7kg on the day of competition.

Kaustubh starts on strong note

▸ Top seed Kaustubh Singh of Uttar Pradesh and fourth seed Taanish Nanda of Chandigarh advanced to the second round of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship in the Boys' U-14 Singles category here on Tuesday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Kaustubh showed his quality by defeating Hariharan Mahamuni 9–2 in just under an hour.

Taanish also delivered an excellent performance-blanking Rishav Prasad 9–0. He did not lose a single game,

Shaw gets into altercation

PUNE, PTI: Discarded India opener Prithvi Shaw on Tuesday got into an altercation and swung his bat at his former Mumbai teammates while playing for Maharashtra during a practice match ahead of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season here.

The 25-year-old batter, who had moved to Maharashtra from Mumbai, got into the heated spat while making his way back to the dressing room after being dismissed for a brilliant 181 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Gahunje.

In a video that has gone viral on social media, Shaw was seen having an argument with several players.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: Australia vs Pakistan **(3 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Shanghai Masters: Day 8 **(10 am). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET TEST SERIES

Jadeja ageing like a fine wine

The spin all-rounder, at 36 years, has kept himself fit and most relevant to the team

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As Ravindra Jadeja addressed the media after winning a 11th Player of the Match award in the opening Test against West Indies in Ahmedabad, a journalist wanted to know the secret of his success, fitness and longevity. Advancements in science, training and nutrition have seen athletes push the boundaries, and the scribe was curious about the Saurashtra southpaw's regimen, who at the age of 36 is ageing like fine wine.

"Can you just tell us about your sleep cycle? Do you sleep 8-9 hours? Do you not consume any milk..." started the journalist when Jadeja instantly started gesturing with his hands, saying, "Nahi, nahi sir, aisa kuch nahi (No, no sir, nothing like that). I just like to keep it simple and don't think too much about all that. Sometimes I sleep less and sometimes more, depending on my mood," remarked Jadeja.

Intended queries about whey protein, lactic acid, keratin, training methods, gluten, etc., were instantly put to rest. But that's Jadeja in a nutshell: uncomplicated, just like his bowling, batting, fielding, in fact, everything.

Even during his famed 13-year-old partnership with off-spinner R Ashwin, Jadeja loved keeping things basic. While Ashwin, an engineer by education, went on a highly experimental path, constantly adding deliveries, changing action and release points just to show the limits he can take his craft to, Jadeja just stuck to his wicket-to-wicket bowling. As Ashwin tried to outsmart his rivals with a cunning cocktail of drift, drip and varieties, Jadeja undid them by landing the balls repeatedly at one spot with just subtle variations in pace.

That art of doing the basics right, repeatedly, is what endeared him to every captain, from Mahendra Singh Dhoni at the start of his career, followed by Virat Kohli and then Rohit Sharma. In fact, Jadeja ended up being the first choice spinner overseas despite Ashwin being better skilled with the ball primarily because of his metronomic bowling and superior fielding abilities. And to date, Jadeja, as fit and hungry as a budding cricketer, follows that mantra to the tee.

"On a serious note, when matches are approaching, I know when to start my training, when to change my food. I have a very good idea of my body, what it needs and in what state it is in at any time. I understand what is good for me. I do my training. I calculate all of it. But just that I don't think too deeply about sleep cycle... I don't post my training also on social media," said Jadeja.

This simple yet calculated approach has allowed Jadeja to stay on top of his game despite being on the wrong side of 30s. In the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England, he ended up being one of the star performers with the bat, hammering one century and five fifties for a series total of 516 runs. He almost threatened to pull off a miraculous backs-to-the-wall win at Lord's, which India lost in heart-breaking fashion, before helping script a draw for the ages in Manchester in the very next game. Bowling-wise, he did his job of keeping things tight and bagged seven wickets.

Jadeja continued from where he left off in the opening Test against the West Indies in Ahmedabad. He smashed an unbeaten 104 off 176 balls and followed that up with 4/54 with the ball in the second innings. It was the fourth occasion where he bagged four or more wickets and scored a century in a Test—tying the record with Ashwin and the legendary Garry Sobers. He's now just one shy of the overall record held by Ian Botham. Another record within reach is the 4000 runs and 350 wickets—Jadeja has 3990 and 334 scalps.

Jadeja was asked about whether he has his eyes set on Kapil Dev's unique record of 5000 runs and 400 wickets—the legend has 5248 runs and 434 wickets respectively. Jadeja laughed again. "Sir, you're putting pressure on me now. I'll have to start thinking about how to score 1000 more runs and take 60-70 more wickets! At this stage, I'm enjoying my cricket. I'm not thinking about other records or milestones. I'm just working on my fitness and enjoying my cricket. I just want to continue doing what I've been doing for so many years, that's about it." That's Jadeja again, keeping things simple.

Ravindra Jadeja in Tests

BATTING		BOWLING	
Mat	86	Mat	86
Inns	129	Wkts	334
Runs	3,990	BBI	7/42
HS	175*	Ave	25.07
Ave	38.73	4W	15
100s	6	5W	15
50s	27	10W	3

> **I know when to start my training, when to change my food. I have a very good idea of my body.**
> Ravindra Jadeja

Ravindra Jadeja, India's all-weather player in Tests, has arguably been the most crucial cog in their wheel in the last couple of years. PTI

Henil, Khilan help India U-19 to slender lead

MACKAY, PTI: A disciplined bowling attack, led by the Patel duo of Henil and Khilan, helped India U-19 bowl Australia U-19 out for 135 runs and take a slender nine-run first-innings lead on the opening day of the second Youth Test here on Tuesday.

Right-arm pacer Henil Patel and left-arm spinner Khilan Patel scalped three Australian wickets each for 21 and 23 runs respectively to trigger a batting collapse of the home side, who were all out in 43.3 overs.

Wicketkeeper Alex Lee Young top-scored for Australia U-19 with a 66 off 108 balls, while captain Will Malajczuk and Yash Deshmukh made 10 and 22 respectively. All the other batters were out in single-digit figures.

The Australians were reduced to 32 for 5 in the 10th over midway into the morning session before Young and Deshmukh stitched 59 runs for the sixth wicket to stage a brief resistance.

But Deshmukh's dismissal off the bowling of Khilan in the 28th over triggered another collapse around Young who was the last batter out. Australia lost the last five wickets for the addition of just 44 runs.

Pace bowler Udhav Mohan got two wickets while Deepesh Devendran took one.

In reply, India were 144 for 7 from 40 overs at the draw of stumps with Henil and Deepesh batting on 22 and 6 respectively.

Brief scores: Australia U-19: 135 all out in 43.3 overs (Alex Lee Young 66; Udhav Mohan 2-23, Henil Patel 3-21, Khilan Patel 3-23) vs India U-19: 144/7 in 40 overs (Vedant Trivedi 25, Khilan Patel 26; Will Byrom 2-33, Kasey Barton 3-39).

Chandrasekhar, Lara honoured

The legendary BS Chandrasekhar and Brian Lara on Tuesday won the Lifetime Achievement awards while India's Sanju Samson and Varun Chakravarthy claimed the men's T20I batter and bowler of the year honours during the CEAT Cricket Rating Awards, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Former India captain Rohit Sharma won a special memento for winning the 2025 Champions Trophy as captain while Shreyas Iyer was given a memento for scoring most runs by an Indian player in the 50-over competition.

England's Joe Root, who is now the second highest run-scorer in Test cricket, won the men's international cricketer of the year award.

Harry Brook was declared the men's Test batter of the year while Sri Lanka's Prabath Jayasuriya was named the men's Test bowler of the year.

Deepti Sharma was named the women's international bowler of the year while Smriti Mandhana won the women's international batter award.

CRICKET WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Balanced pitch may offer relief to struggling Indian batters

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

A balanced pitch which offers considerable assistance to the batters will greet the Indians, who have been struggling to hit a higher note in the ongoing Women's World Cup, here for their two crucial games against Australia and South Africa.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will face South Africa on Thursday and the defending champions Australia on October 12 at the ACA-VDCA stadium here.

The venue is hosting a women's ODI after a gap of 11 years, after India's match against Sri Lanka on January 23, 2014.

"The pitch will offer good help to batters, if you look at the last few matches, including the IPL, here. The bowlers, especially spinners if there is no dew, will have some help as the match goes on," an Andhra Cricket Association official said.

The T20Is here have generally seen high scores, as both India men and Delhi Capitals (in the IPL) were able to chase down 200-plus targets.

Former India captain Mithali Raj will have a stand named after her in Visakhapatnam stadium on Wednesday. PTI

In the men's ODIs, India's 387/5 against the West Indies in 2019 is the highest total at this stadium, which also has seen four totals in excess of 320, and six totals between 280 and 299.

The Indian women's side will welcome those stats wholeheartedly after being forced to grind their way to 269 for eight (vs Sri Lanka) and 247 (vs Pakistan) at Guwahati and Colombo respectively in the ICC showpiece.

Mithali stand

Former Indian captain Mithali Raj and wicketkeeper R Kalpana will have stands named after them at the ACA-VDCA stadium on October 12 ahead of India's match against Australia.

The decision was taken after India opener Smriti Mandhana made the suggestion to Andhra Pradesh IT minister Nara Lokesh during the "Breaking the Boundaries" fireside chat in August.

Mithali made 7805 runs from 232 ODIs at an average of 50.68 with seven centuries, while her 89 T20Is yielded 2364 runs with 17 fifties. She also played 12 Tests, scoring 699 runs at an average of 43.68.

Kalpana played seven ODIs between 2015 and 2016, but her rise to Indian team has inspired several cricketers from the region such as Arundhati Reddy, S Meghana and N Sri Charani.

Knight guides Eng to nervy win

GUWAHATI, PTI: Former captain Heather Knight dug deep into her reservoir of experience to score a match-winning half-century and guide England to a four-wicket win over a spirited Bangladesh in the Women's World Cup here on Tuesday.

Bundled out for 178, the Bangladesh bowling unit, led by leg-spinner Fahima Khatun (3/16 in 10 overs) and pacer Marufa Akter (2/28 in 5 overs), put up a fighting effort to leave England at a precarious 78 for five in the 23rd over, and 103 for six in the 30th over.

This was England's second successive victory.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 178 all out in 49.4 overs (Sharmin Akhter 30, Sobhana Mostary 60, Rabeya Khan 43; Linsey Smith 2-33, Sophie Ecclestone 3-24, Charlie Dean 2-28, Alice Capsey 2-31) lt to England: 182/6 in 46.1 overs (Heather Knight 79 n.o., Nat Sciver-Brunt 32, Charlotte Dean 27 n.o.; Marufa Akter 2-28, Fahima Khatun 3-16) by 4 wickets. **PoM:** Heather Knight. **Today's match:** Australia vs Pakistan

Starc returns for India ODI series

MELBOURNE, PTI

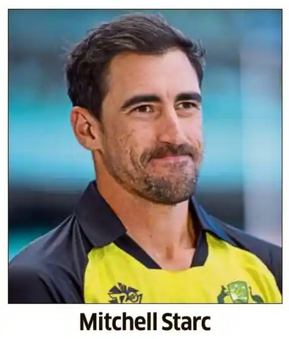
Fast bowler Mitchell Starc returned to the Australian ODI squad for the three-match home series against India starting on October 19 where Mitchell Marsh will continue to captain in the absence of Pat Cummins, who is recuperating from a back injury.

Starc, who retired from T20 internationals last month, sat out the home ODI series against South Africa in August after returning from the West Indies Test tour. With his workload being carefully managed ahead of the Ashes, Starc last played an ODI in November 2024 in Adelaide against Pakistan.

Alongside uncapped batter Matthew Renshaw, Matt Short and Mitch Owen, Starc is one of four inclusions to Australia's 15-strong ODI squad which lost 1-2 to the Proteas.

Marsh will continue to captain the ODI team in the absence of Cummins, who is continuing his recovery from lumbar bone stress in preparation for the Ashes.

The selectors also named a 14-member team under Marsh for the first two T20Is that follow the ODIs against India as the side continue their buildup to next year's T20 World Cup.



Mitchell Starc

The squads: ODIs: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

T20Is (first two games): Mitchell Marsh (c), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

Schedule (ODIs): Oct 19 (Perth), Oct 23 (Adelaide) and Oct 25 (Sydney).

T20Is: Oct (Canberra), Oct 31 (Melbourne), Nov 2 (Hobart), Nov 6 (Gold Coast) and Nov 8 (Brisbane).

Gautam to lead in CK Nayudu, Niki in Sr women's T20 meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aneeshwar Gautam will lead Karnataka in the Col. CK Nayudu campaign, starting with their opener against Railways in Bengaluru from October 16 to 19. Hardik Raj, who didn't find place in the Ranji Trophy team, while Sanjay Ashwin and Faizan Khan will share the wicket-keeping responsibilities. Samit Dravid also finds a place in the squad.

KSCA has also named 15-member squad for the Senior women's T20 trophy at Gwalior from October 8-19, which will see Niki Prasad (**in pic**) lead the team. Shubha Satheesh will act as her deputy.

Karnataka squad: Prakhar Chaturvedi, Karthik SU, Jasper EJ, Harshil Dharmani, KP Karthikeya, Aneeshwar Gautam (c), Samit Dravid, Dhruv Prabhakar, Sanjay Ashwin (wk), Hardik Raj, Yashovardhan Parantap, Shashikumar K, Monish Reddy, Dhanush Gowda, Faizan Khan (wk).

Support staff: Coach: Somashekar Shiraguppi, Assistant Coach: SR Deepu, Manager: BK Kumar, Strength & Conditioning Coach: Kiran A, Physiotherapist: Vijay Mudgal, Performance Analyst : Mr. Kiran Kudtarkar

Karnataka Senior Women's squad: Niki Prasad (c), Vrinda Dinesh, Mithila Vinod, Shubha Satheesh (vc), Shreyanka R Patil, Monica C Patel, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Prathyoosha Kumar (wk), BG Tejashwini, Sahana S Pawar, Soumya Verma (wk), Pooja Kumari M, Shishira A Gowda, Roshini Kiran Ananya Hegde

Support staff: Coach: Karuna Jain, **Manager:** Sunitha Ananthakrishnan, **Strength & Conditioning Coach**: Kirti S, **Physiotherapist :** Padmavani

RIVALRY REIGNITED

Anand, Kasparov clash after 30 yrs

ST. LOUIS (USA), PTI

Former world champions Viswanathan Anand and Garry Kasparov will reignite their once fierce rivalry after 30 years when they face off in the Clutch Chess: The Legends tournament here from Wednesday.

The 12-game Chess 960 match will carry a total prize pool of USD 144000 and will be held in the upgraded St. Louis Chess Club.

Having played a Classical World Championship match in 1995 on the 107th floor of the the World Trade Centre in New York, the two legends of the game will battle it out again in the famous rapid and blitz format that was recently christened Freestyle Chess.

Kasparov dominated that match against Anand and won the 20-games contest 10.5-7.5. After retiring in 2004 Kasparov has played only in exhibitions or blitz events while Anand is semi-retired and plays occasionally in higher events.

Viswanathan Anand (left) and Garry Kasparov.

The winner will take home USD 70000 (approximately Rs 62 lakh) while USD 50000 (approximately Rs 44 lakh) is reserved for the one ending on the losing side of this match.

If the match is tied after 12 games, the prize will be split 50-50, where each player receives USD 60,000 (approximately Rs 53 lakh).

There will be bonus money of USD 24,000 (approximately Rs 21 lakh) for 12 games.

Atherton for an end to 'neatly arranged' Indo-Pak clashes

LONDON, PTI: Alleging that draws have been "neatly arranged" to ensure India-Pakistan clashes in ICC tournaments for "economic needs", former England captain Michael Atherton (**in pic**) has called for a complete halt to cricket between the two bitter rivals as sport has become a "proxy for broader tensions and propaganda".

In a scathing column for 'The Times', Atherton cited the recent "antics" at the Asia Cup where the Indian team refused to shake hands with Pakistani players and the Asian Cricket Council's Pakistani head Mohsin Naqvi walked away with the winner's trophy after the Indians refused to accept it from him.

"India and Pakistan have played each other in the group stage of every ICC event since 2013, which includes three 50-over World Cups, five T20 World Cups and three Champions Trophy," Atherton said.

"That is regardless of whether the initial stage has been a single round robin - part of the motivation for which is the inevitability of an India versus Pakistan fixture - or multi-group, when the draws have been neatly arranged to ensure the fixture goes ahead," he added.

From dancing on stage to wielding paddle, Sakshya has made rapid strides

The 10-year-old, who took to the game by chance, is now the country's top-ranked TT player in her age group

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

In table tennis, playing with and against an anti-spin rubber (on the bat) is a complicated affair many paddlers happily avoid. The special kind of rubber, which is flat unlike the pimpled rubbers, essentially helps the one equipped with it to return the spin created by the opponent back to him/her. A top-spin ball is boomeranged into a back spin ball, a no-spin shot is returned with the same effect and so on and so forth.

For some years now, coach Anshuman Roy was on the look out for a player who would be brave enough to adopt to the 'you get what you give' style of play with anti-spin rubbers. His search ended when a chirpy little Sakshya Santhosh hopped and jumped into his academy in 2022.

"There are certain kids, you know, who have that spark the moment you look at them. Sakshya was one of them," recalled Ashutosh, who runs the UTT Skies High Performance Centre in JP Nagar, Bengaluru.

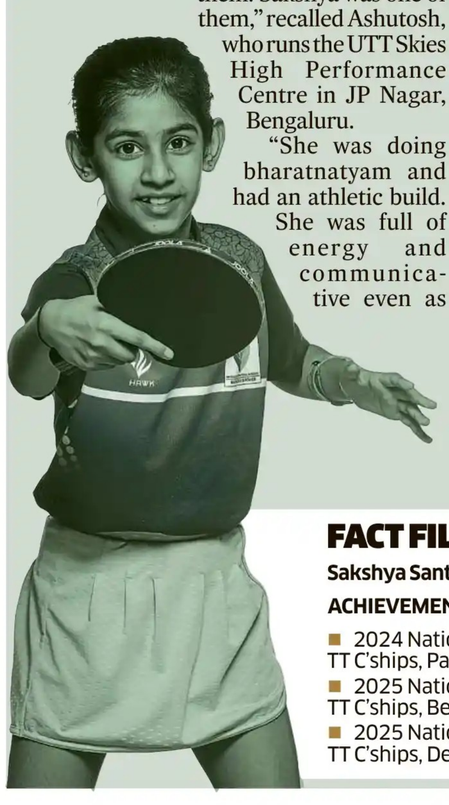
"She was doing bharatnatyam and had an athletic build. She was full of energy and communicative even as a 5-6 year-old. We observed in the first few months that she was a quick learner and had a natural flair in understanding the nuances of ball and spin. So I decided to groom her differently," explained Ashutosh who trains the youngster with the help of his partner Minhyung Jee, a player and coach from Korea.

After Ayhika Mukerjee, Asian Games bronze medallist and Arjuna Awardee, among the current crop of top Indian players, 10-year-old Sakshya is now settling nicely into the combination of anti-spin rubber for the backhand and short (normal) pimple on the forehand side - making her a tough cookie to crack on the court. Most others, including Manika Batra, Shreeja Akula, Yashashwini Ghorpade, play with the long pimple (backhand) and short pimple (forehand) rubbers.

The coach's risk began to pay rewards almost immediately. Within 18 months of Sakshya taking to the sport, the youngster became the under-11 national champion, at her maiden appearance in Panchkula last year. After winning four qualifying rounds, she sped past opponents in six main draw rounds to wear the crown. The Bengaluru girl repeated the feat once again this month by clinching the U-11 title at the 2nd UTT National-ranking Table Tennis Championships in New Delhi to be ranked India's no. 1 in the category. As for the State-ranking events, Sakshya has become a dominant force in both the girls' U-11 and U-13 sections for over a year now.

"Winning my first-ever nationals was special. In the finals, I had lost the first game but I won the next three (3-1). And she (opponent) was very strong. But still I could beat her," said Sakshya, a fifth-grader at the Bangalore International Academy in Jayanagar.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in



FACT FILE

Sakshya Santhosh Age: 10

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2024 National Ranking TT C'ships, Panchkula: Gold.
- 2025 National Ranking TT C'ships, Bengaluru: Gold.
- 2025 National Ranking TT C'ships, Delhi: Gold.
- **Ranking:** Current India No. 1 in under-11 girls singles category. Karnataka's No. 1 in both U-11 & U-13 singles sections.

Food for thought for India's swimming authorities

Indian team was served athlete unfriendly diet

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Indian swimmers and divers may have scripted history at the ongoing Asian Aquatics Championships with their record-breaking haul of 13 medals, but their journey to the podium wasn't exactly smooth. The newly-inaugurated Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, which housed the athletes for a pre-event camp, left them with more headaches than they expected.

The entire 50-strong contingent stayed at the venue's hostels for a month leading up to the competition. While the facility looked grand, the food served was anything but athlete-friendly.

"The facilities were world-class but I can't say the same about the food," an Indian athlete told *DH* on the condition of anonymity. "We were served fried aloo parathas, roti with ghee, oily vegetable curries and other local snacks. The food felt like it was served at a wedding by caterers."

Indian athletes were part of a national camp before the Asian Aquatics Championships. DH PHOTO

To make things worse, meat was completely off the menu, which is a key source of protein for many swimmers. Some athletes resorted to online food delivery apps, while others raised the issue with Swimming Federation of India general secretary Monal Chokshi. After complaints, meat was eventually added to the menu, but the heavy and oily options continued to dominate.

This stood out all the more because other Olympic sports in India usually rope in nutritionists and ensure tailored meals at national camps.

DH reached out to Chokshi for a comment on the matter but the calls went unanswered.

Relief only came once the swimmers checked into a nearby 5-star hotel during the Championships, where healthier meals were finally on the table. Visiting contingents like China stayed in 5-star hotels from day one, with even a Chinese chef arranged to meet their dietary needs.

It wasn't just food woes either.

Athletes complained about last-minute event notifications, sometimes being told only hours before their heats.

"Such a thing never happens when we compete abroad," said another athlete.

WATER POLO ASIAN AQUATICS

Men make early exit

Women lose to Uzbekistan in an another lopsided affair

Karnataka teenager Dhruthi DK prepares to take a shot at goal against Uzbekistan during their group match in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Indian men's water polo team slumped to their fourth consecutive defeat and made an early exit from the title run of the Asian Aquatics Championships here on Tuesday. The women's team suffered a lopsided 4-23 loss to Uzbekistan in their second group game.

The men's team, on the other hand, lost 11-35 to World No. 11 Japan in their last Group B match, ending their campaign with four losses in four games while conceding 94 goals. The latest defeat was their worst so far in terms of goals conceded after lopsided losses to Singapore, Thailand and Kazakhstan. All the remaining four nations in the group qualified for quarterfinals and also for next year's Asian Games.

The only consolation from the match for India was a quartet of goal by Ankit Prasad while team's main forward Bhagesh Kuthe, who finished the leading Indian goalscorer with seven goals, could only score once before getting a permanent suspension after three major fouls by the fourth quarter. However, such was the Japanese stranglehold over the underdogs as all 11 of their outfield players (including rolling substitutes) scored a goal at least. Jun Lowrey celebrated a double hat-trick while their captain Ura Enishi and wing forward Yuki Moriya scored four goals each. Japan, who have fielded their junior team, asserted their superiority from the word go as they decided the fate of the game by the end of the first quarter. The heavyweights took 10-2 lead while Indians lacked in all the departments. Most telling was the goal to shot conversion, where Japan showed 55 per cent efficiency in the first quarter in comparison to hosts' 33 per cent. India did show some fight in the second quarter as Ankit completed his hat-trick with back-to-back goals after goalkeeper Aneesh Babu saved a penalty stroke. Meanwhile, Women's national team had no respite either following their opening day defeat to Singapore as they were overrun by Uzbekistan.

Results: Men: Uzbekistan: 11 lt to China: 29; Singapore: 7 lt to Kazakhstan: 11; India: 11 lt to Japan: 35.
Women: Kazakhstan: 6 lt to China: 23; India: 4 lt to Uzbekistan: 23; Hong Kong: 7 lt to Thailand: 26.

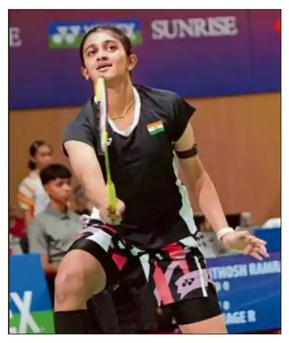
Clinical India ease past Sri Lanka for their second win

GUWAHATI, PTI: India produced another clinical performance against Sri Lanka in their Group H clash to inch closer to the knock-out stages of the mixed team event of the BWF World Junior Badminton Championships for the Suhandinata Cup here on Tuesday. India, the second seeds and firm favourites to top Group H, lived up to expectations with a 45-27, 45-21 victory over Sri Lanka, who had edged the United Arab Emirates in a close tie on Monday.

Among the other top nations, 14-time champions China and former champions South Korea registered their second wins in their respective group, while Philippines upset Hong Kong 42-45, 45-28, 45-43.

China playing in Group D defeated England 45-22, 45-19, while South Korea hammered debutant Bhutan 45-5, 45-17 in Group G. The Indian team hardly broke any sweat despite the team management fielding a fresh bunch of players who didn't get a chance to play in the match against Nepal Lalthazuala Hmar gave the team a confident start, beating Keneth Aruggoda 9-2 in the boy's singles and Bhavya Chhabra and Mithileish P Krishnan extending the lead to 18-6 against Sanuda Ariyasinghe and Thisath Rupathunga.

It was only girl's singles player Rakshitha Sree, who was playing the team relay-scoring format for the first time, struggled to get going against Ranithma Liyanage.



Rakshitha Sree

Viraj, Subash share joint lead; five bunched in T-3

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kolkata's Viraj Madappa and Nepal golfer Subash Tamang posted scores of six-under 65 to hold the joint lead after round one of the Rs 1 crore Bengaluru Open being played at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) course in Bengaluru.

The five players that were tied in third place at five-under 66 included Sri Lankan N Thangaraja, Bangladesh's Md Muaj, Lucknow's Sanjeev Kumar, Chandigarh's Akshay Sharma and Greater Noida's Saptak Talwar. The highest-placed among the Bengaluru-based players were Mari Muthu R, Chikkarangappa S and Manoj S, all of whom shot 69 to be placed tied 19th. Defending champion Abhinav Lohan too was placed tied 19th.

Viraj Madappa

Viraj Madappa made a steady start with three birdies and a bogey on the back-nine. Madappa then powered ahead with five birdies and a bogey on the front-nine where he produced some exceptional wedge shots and a 55-feet conversion.

Scores (after 18 holes): 65: Subash Tamang (65), Viraj Madappa (65); 66: MD Muaj (66), N Thangaraja (66), Akshay Sharma (66), Sanjeev Kumar (66), Saptak Talwar (66).

Swiatek beats the heat and Bouzkova; Djokovic advances

WUHAN, AFP

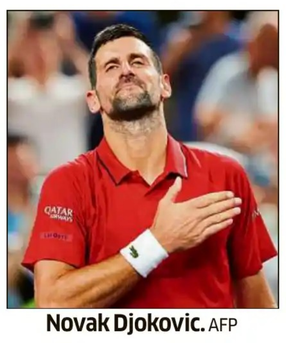
World No. 2 Iga Swiatek enjoyed a victorious debut at the Wuhan Open on a scorching Tuesday that saw Emma Raducanu and Jelena Ostapenko both retire from their matches.

Swiatek, who had an opening-round bye, eased past the Czech Republic's Marie Bouzkova 6-1, 6-1 to book a third-round clash with Belinda Bencic or Elise Mertens.

After her win, Swiatek called on organisers to take player safety into account when scheduling matches on the outside courts, where there is no roof that can be closed to control the temperature.

High temperatures above 30 Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) forced organisers to put the heat rule into effect on Monday, where play was suspended on the outside courts.

The heat rule was also in effect on Tuesday between 12:30 and 17:30 but no matches were suspended.



Novak Djokovic. AFP

Earlier, Raducanu had her blood pressure and other vitals checked before retiring with dizziness from her first-round match when down 6-1, 4-1 to American Ann Li.

The British world No. 30 appeared to be struggling with the conditions as the temperature soared.

The 2021 US Open champion received medical attention five games into the second set.

She made the call to retire, sending Li into a second-round meeting with ninth-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Meanwhile, four-time major champion Naomi Osaka claimed her first victory at the Wuhan Open with a hard-fought 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Canada's Leylah Fernandez.

In a tense two-hour 30-minute affair, the 11th-seeded Osaka fired 41 winners and 56 unforced errors.

Chinese wildcard Zhang Shuai, ranked 142 in the world, stunned 14th-seeded Emma Navarro 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. It is Zhang's second victory over Navarro in as many meetings, and her first top-20 win of the season.

The 36-year-old will take on Cirstea in round two.

Djokovic fights through

Novak Djokovic banished exhaustion and played through an ankle injury scare to make it to the quarterfinals of the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday, beating Spain's Jaume Munar 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Services showcase their supremacy

CHENNAI, PTI: Services boxers reaffirmed their supremacy on the national circuit as the men's competition of the inaugural BFI Cup concluded here on Tuesday, with notable wins for Vishwanath, Husamuddin, Vanshaj, Sachin and Ankush in the finals.

Asian U-22 champion S Vishwanath (Services) set the tone with a commanding 5-0 win over Ashish (Haryana) in the 47–50kg category, while Ashish (Services) edged Navraj 3-2 in a closely fought 50–55kg final.

World Championships bronze medallist Mohammad Husamuddin (Services) continued his fine run, defeating Sagar Jakhar (SAI) 5-0 in the 55–60kg bout.

In the 60–65kg category, Services' Vanshaj prevailed over teammate Preet Malik in a close 3-2 contest, while Sumit Kumar (SAI) displayed complete control in the 65–70kg final with a 5-0 win over Rajat from Services.

Among the heavier divisions, Naveen Boora (Services) overcame Vinit (Railways) 3-0 in the 80–85kg category, while Daksh edged Vishal Gupta (Services) 3-2.

Nikhil brace steers FC Bengaluru United home

BENGALURU, DHNS: FC Bengaluru United roared to a 3-0 win over Bangalore City FC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

MD Altab Hussain opened the scoring for FCBU in the 4th minute before Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar doubled their advantage in the 34th. Nikhil, then, stuck in the 42nd minute to seal an easy 3-0 victory. In the day's other fixtures, Kickstart FC beat Rebels FC, courtesy of a Vinod R's own goal, while R Karthikeyan and Ajay Alex Antony scored a goal each in FC Real Bengaluru's 2-0 win over ASC & Centre FC.

Results: FC Bengaluru United: 3 (MD Altab Hussain 4th, Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 34th, 42nd) bt Bangalore City FC: 0; Kickstart FC: 1 (Vinod R 53rd own goal) bt Rebels FC: 0; FC Real Bengaluru: 2 (R Karthikeyan 12th, Ajay Alex Antony 60th pen) bt ASC & Centre FC: 0.

FC Bengaluru United's Chunsaba Bariam (left) battles for possession against Bangalore City FC's Ajay Shankar Kadam during their Super Division League championship match at BFS. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Anmol, Tanya advance; Dhruv-Tanisha march on

VANTAA, PTI: India's young shuttlers Anmol Kharb and Tanya Hemanth registered impressive wins to progress to the women's singles second round at the Arctic Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Anmol, the 18-year-old from Haryana, produced a gritty show to edge out Lin Hsiang Ti of Chinese Taipei 23-21 11-21 21-18 in a marathon 77-minute clash.

Anmol, who was part of the Indian team that won the 2024 Asian Team Championships gold in Selangor, will next face Wen Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto outplayed France's Lucas Renoir and Camille Pognante 21-9 21-7 in just 23 minutes to enter the second round.

However, Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan lost 19-21 15-21 to Netherlands' Brian Wassink and Debora Jille.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Energy & Development
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Dept., GoK)
Srirampura Cross, Jakkur, Bengaluru - 560 064

Training on Solar PV Rooftop Technology

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Energy & Development, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru invites application for Five (5) Days Entrepreneurship Development Program on "Solar PV Rooftop Technology" **(Starting from 27.10.2025) at "MGIRED Campus, Sriramapura Cross, Jakkur, Bengaluru – 560 064".** The training covers Technology and Business Opportunities in Solar PV Sector (Free Food and Accommodation will be provided). Registration Fees Rs.500/- per Candidate (Non-refundable). For eligibility and more details please visit website: **https://www.mgired.karnataka.gov.in** and e-mail the filled application form to **mgiredblr@gmail.com** **(Last date to submit applications: 23.10.2025).**
Contact : Mobile Nos. 7611757523 / 8618247700 / 7483858279 / 7899054642 Ph. 080-23626359
Sd/- Executive Director

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through e-portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** against enquiry No.: **CEE/ BRAZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/Enq No. ET42/2025-26, Dated: 04.10.2025** for Providing services of 32 Nos. of temporary sweepers for cleaning office premises to various circle/ divisions/ sub-divisions offices in the BRAZ jurisdiction for a period of "one year" i.e., from the date of 'Contract Award' through an agency. Approx. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 75,46,703/-.** EMD shall be paid: **Rs.1,50,934/-.** Contract period: **One year.**
Bid document available on e-portal: **08.10.2025 @ 12:00 Hrs** onwards, Pre bid meeting: **15.10.025 @ 11:00 Hrs**, Last date for submission of queries: **16.10.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs,** Last date for submission of bid documents: **23.10.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs,** Date and time of opening technical bid: **24.10.2025 @ 17:00 Hrs.**
The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP portal from the website: **https:// kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in.** on or after **08.10.2025.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal.
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